The Life of Lord Caitanya

Lord Chaitanya Impacts Kali 4

Act One - The Birth of Nimai

Scene One - Sin and the Six Vices
(How Lord Caitanya Impacts the Age of Kali #4)

(Sin enters along with her six devilish assistants Lust, Anger, Greed, Illusion, Madness and Envy. They all say Bravo! Bravo! and take their places before Sin's throne as she addresses them)

Sin: As seeds grow to become flower-bearing trees, my pets, so like a seed do I lie in the innermost chamber of the heart of all fallen souls. And, day by day, I develop till I do deliver to each and every individual the fruits and flowers of his own sinful life misery, disease, confusion, pain and poverty. For the sins of his past, a man suffers, but he is uncontrollably impelled by my force to commit more and more sins. And from these, he suffers in the future and again commits more. My innumerable seeds are indestructible. They are deeply sown and, like irrepressible weeds, give misery to all.

By my design the poor soul who contemplates sense objects develops attachment for them. That attachment leads to lust, and from lust, anger arises... from anger, then delusion... and finally loss of intelligence. And when a man loses his intelligence, he comes more firmly under my grip. (all applaud)

Thank you, my expert foremen. How grateful I am that with your assistance my authority has been expanded throughout the universe. My pets, recite to me now what expert means you use to expand my kingdom, and I shall reward each of you as you deserve. (all speak simultaneously) Wait, wait, my pets. One at a time, please, one at a time. Now let me see... who shall it be? You begin, O Lust...

Envy: He always gets to start first!

Sin: (claps) Silence, Envy!

Lust: (rises) O Empress Sin, your influence is boundless. Who can escape the enchantment of your web? I am not one to brag, (others murmur) but I must admit that it is I who am the greatest enemy of all the living entities!

All: What, you?!

Sin: (claps) Silence! Let him continue.

Lust: Yes, I! It is I, dear Empress, who induces the pure soul to become entangled in your clutches. My work is simple, very simple. Listen, mother, how I do your work to the best of my ability...

The beautiful woman sits in her bedroom, and with her quickly-moving eyes she sees the redness of her own lips in the mirror. And as she brushes her hair, which is black like the wings of a crow, the desires in her mind easily flow. Seeing her own reflection, her mind becomes delighted, and at any time I whisper in her ear... slowly, slowly I say to that lusty woman: Alas, O beautiful-eyed one, why are you sitting here alone, not being cared for? Why don't you attract some young man's mind and bind him up? Go, go! For what reason do you remain here idly? How can you tolerate the pride of these young men? Why not make them cry out in desire? Why not make them all roll at your feet? With a steady mind she hears

these words. Slightly smiling, she rises and, holding the mirror with her own reflection in front of her, the enchantress runs off to conquer in all directions!!!
When I see laziness in a man, I go to him and say: "O mystifier of the worlds, what are you doing? Just see women are dying for you! You are just like a bumble-bee, now go and drink honey from many flowers!" Hearing my sweet words, the scandalous man begins to think himself the lord of love. And at that moment, the beautiful woman attacks him with the arrows of her glances. In this way, the young man and woman fall down by Lust's deception. In the end, they enjoy poisonous fruits, and the depths of their hearts burn day and night. Thus bound by ropes of attachment, they come under your control... their shouts of remorse never end! In this manner do I, Lust, ever cause the best of men to fall.

Sin: (happily clapping) Beautiful! Beautiful!

Envy: Now me! Let me!

Sin: Wait! All in good time! Speak to me, Anger what is your business?

Anger: O Sin! All glories unto you! Without you, what would this world be like to live in? Please hear of my exploits on your behalf. Lust's work is simple, he says. I couldn't agree with him more. But my work is thorough. He may capture a man's senses, mind and intelligence, but it is my toxins that pollute his whole body. After Lust does what little he can, his victim gets passed on to me. (Lust responds with insults) Then I make the man's gentle voice harsh and loud, his muscles taut, his heart palpitate, his actions uncontrolled. Just see the pauper in my palm, his blood boiling and his face flushed red by my wrath! That soul will not listen, reason cannot find him, patience has deserted him. Only arrogance and pride provoke him, and he turns upon his own beloved wife, children and friends. Being unkind to them, he suffers all the more. O dearest Sin, devastation is my work! You can see the evidence of my work everywhere in the form of enmity: between husband and wife, between brothers, friends and families, between societies, religions and nations. I have men at each other's throats over mere trifles. Then after my brief visit is over, my black shadow, war, arrives! And that's when the real fun begins! (harsh laughter. The other enemies mimic his laughter sarcastically) Ah shut up! Shut up!

Sin: Next! Who shall speak next? (clamor) Quiet! (immediate silence) All right, Greed, go on.

Greed: Of all your foremen, sweet Sin, I truly am the foremost! (all respond negatively) Like a faithful gardener, I lavishly water the seeds you so carefully sow! Please hear, Your Majesty, of my qualifications of which you certainly already know. Whatever there may be within the universe to satisfy one's senses can never satisfy me. Even though a man has everything, under my influence he wants more. With discontent by my side, I sap the very vitality of human life. Where I reside, rest assured, happiness never dares show her face. My pitiful prisoner, one foot through the gate of hell, thinks: "So much wealth do I have today, and I will gain more according to my schemes." Thus he works hard like an ass day in, day out, and even overtime...
Rushing to work at breakneck speed, full of anxiety, convinced that he is free. But in truth he's working for me!
No matter what he goes through and gets, it will never make amends...
thus he takes to stealing and cheating, even from his friends.
Then they steal from him and, thus oppressed,
they become enemies over a farthing or less.

Let but my sticky fingertips lightly touch the most esoteric philosopher, the most advanced scientist, the most renowned politician, the most brilliant poet, and they become morose,

living a life of two extremes: hankering for future gain, and lamenting for past loss.
Ahhh! Just see how I make them all insane!

Illusion: Ho-hum!

Greed: My queen, these are the waters of my reign...

Illusion: Enough!

Greed: ...and the flood has only just begun...

Illusion: Enough!

Greed: ...by my touch, they all become undone!

Illusion: I can't stand any more!

Greed: Too bad!

Sin: Illusion, Illusion, please.

Illusion: (jumping up and interrupting Greed) O Sin! With all due respect, I have heard enough! After all, why does a man endeavor to enjoy himself? And why is he angered when he fails? I ask you why... why is he dissatisfied with his wealth? It is because I, Illusion, have spread my veils. You should know that all beautiful, glorious and mighty sins spring from but a spark of my splendor. (Sin squirms nervously) With but a single fragment of myself, I pervade and support all these other petty seedlings. (other enemies protest vigorously) Why do I reign supreme?

All: Supreme?!

Illusion: For one reason only: because of my cheerful smile called ignorance. It is due to ignorance, Madame Sin, that men are overcome by your glance. Poor little Lust and Anger simply carry on my work. (negative response) And when I make a man want more than what he's due, then only is he susceptible to you, O noble Greed! And why are souls called fallen? Because I cast them down. And why do they stay down? Because I enshroud them. For every being is born in my grip, overcome by desire and hate.

I have decided for modern man
that life is a complex chemical combination,
that there is no God in control,
and within the body there is no soul.
He thinks that his body made merely
of earthly lifeless elements
is his complete identity.
Poor lost little living entity!

He's unaware that there's a joyful Lord in control,
that within the body, there's a blissful living soul.
You see, they only age in years, but not in knowledge,
for I hide reality behind my shawl,
for the detriment of one and all.
Good queen, you know this world to be

a place of death, happiness has no place here.
But for them, this truth is wholly unclear.

They are blind, for within their minds, I pit hope against hope. "Things will be better," they think, "and the future is so bright."

That's my master plan...
to keep them locked up in this sham.

Sin: Your master plan?

Illusion: Well, I didn't mean...

Sin: That is quite enough now, Illusion. Don't let yourself get carried away.

Illusion: But my Queen, I haven't...

Sin: Sit down, Illusion! Sit! Good. Now, Madness, you've been ominously quiet and reserved. Let's hear of your play.

Madness: I, reserved? How very droll.

Sin: Why not let us into the labyrinth of your mind?

Madness: Excuse me if I seem a bit reserved. A real hero shows prowess by his actions, not high sounding words. (negative response) Allow me to quietly reveal my seductive plot. Man is mortal; this statement seems quite sound, you must admit. (responses: "So what else is new? Ho-hum!")

Old folks have died, and he who is a child today,
will sooner or later pass away.
Yet although he knows his destiny to be dust,
he madly accumulate more and more and more,
and becomes a prime target for Illusion, Greed, Anger and Lust.
And why? Because he cannot help himself... he must!

All: He must?

Madness: He must! Do you hear? And this is the substance of my gift... This is what I, Madness, contribute. So, Mistress Sin, you can see that I'm the best, I trust.

Sin: (to Madness) Hmmm. Perhaps. After all, there is method to your madness. Well now, Envy. Envy?

All: Hey Envy!!!

Envy: Huh? Who, me?

All: Yes, you!

Sin: At last it is your turn to beat the drum. But I must caution you – don't be too malicious!

Envy: Who, me?

All: Yes, you!

Envy: (intensely eager) To begin with, O Queen, let me ask: From which tree do the seeds of sin come? (all respond in favor of themselves) Wrong! From me! (all freak out)
There you see! Ha! The desire-tree of Envy!
Without me, men would live peacefully,
he'd not care if another was more opulent than he.
None would strive to accumulate more and more,
and then, Madness, where would you be?
Lust, Anger, Greed, Illusion and Madness all envy me! (wild response)
They know that only my call
lures the soul to want what is not his
and makes him fall (faint kirtan is heard in distance)
and it all begins when he envies God!!!
That's why I will never let it end,
for my roots are stronger than an iron rod.
And nothing in this world can ever make them bend. (dissention increases)

Sin: My dear dutiful deputies, you have profusely propagated my authority, leaving no secure sanctuary for Conscience, Renunciation and Devotion.
(A kirtan is heard offstage in the distance, and this does not stop for the rest of the play. The actors must shout over it)
What is that! What in hell is that!? Am I to hear this?
The singing rents the sky as if a thunder peel. Speak up, Vices! How have you performed your task? How long must I wait before I see such joyous jubilation chase away forever?
Shhh, quiet. Listen! What's that?

All: What's what?

Sin: That sound!

All: What sound?

Sin: That! That horrible sound. It sounds like music...

All: Music?

Sin: Yes, happy music!

All: (they stand up) Yes, yes it is!

Sin: All right, who's responsible for this?

All: Honestly, Sin, we didn't...

Sin: I warn you if this is someone's idea of a joke, I'm not amused! I want it stopped. I want it stopped immediately! (silence, no one moves) Well, someone do something. Someone go out there and tell them to stop it this instant!
(Kali enters)

All: Kali! Kali!

Sin: O Kali! How wonderful to see you, my dear! (kirtan is more noticeable in background)

Kali: (sadly) O my Queen, my poor Queen...

Sin: What,s the matter, Kali?

Kali: (distraught, pacing back and forth) I never thought it could happen... Brace yourself, my queen, I have bad news.

Sin: Bad news?!

Kali: Yes. It's all over! Our doom is in the making!

Sin: Our doom?

Kali: Yes! They are chanting and spreading those horrible names!

Sin: What names?

Kali: You know those names!

Sin: What are you talking about?

Kali: Must I spell out everything for you? The Holy Names of Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead! They are planting those names in the minds and hearts of everyone, everywhere!

Sin: Oh no! No!

Kali: Our entire empire is quaking!

Sin: But how can that be? We've sown uncountable seeds of sin within their hearts.

All: Yes! Yes!

Sin: And those seeds will kill piety like piercing, poisonous darts.

All: They must! They must!

Kali: Take heed of my warning - Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the Supreme Personality of God has appeared. Alas, all is ended; your tyranny is terminated!

Sin: Why? What can Caitanya do to me?

Kali: Caitanya's very birth has caused the chanting of Hare Krsna to be performed everywhere at once! Stop and think, what will the condition be when Caitanya, taking the order of sanyassa, roams the surface of this Earth, distributing the Holy Name to one and all?

Sin: Ah yes, that explains the hubub outside! See, the moon is gone into an eclipse, being gobbled by Rahu. This confusion is common - always, during an eclipse, the people become superstitious and pray. Nothing to fear - their piety will be swept away by the Vices!

Kali: What can the Vices do? The Vices cannot affect a devotee of Krsna. The Vices are mere sycophants of Caitanya, Who Himself has appeared in the mood of a devotee.

Sin: Tell me, O Master, which person's heart is not inflicted with lust, wounded by Cupid's arrows? Whose mind is not paralyzed by rage, enslaved by greed or covered by illusion? Who is there who has not danced to the puppetry of vanity or has found envy detestable?

Kali: You seem not to know the nature of the Devotees. All the Vices are like servants to them. Lust will remain engrossed in his service and will act like a horse to carry the devotee back to the spiritual world. Anger will be utilized to subdue the atheists. What will greed do? The Devotee will cultivate a greed for reaching his goal of Pure Love! He will shed incessant tears at the lotus feet of his Lord and wash away illusion. Intoxicated with the pride of being a servant of the Supreme Lord, he will serve Him with loving devotion. Envy will find no shelter in the Devotees. They envy no one and thus they are dear to everyone.
Conquering the six Vices, the Devotee will get his propagation work done. Once he has seen the sublime beauty of his Lord, he will not hanker for the evanescent. He will remain fixed in his transcendental service to the Lord and have the Vices wait on him with folded palms!

Sin: First, we shall see how he weathers the storm of youth!

Kali: For he who has surrendered his life and youth to the Supreme Truth, submission to Krsna is the essence of his life. Then, who is so foolish as to contest with him? To teach self-surrender, Spiritual Love Personified has appeared as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu! At long last, your poisonous fangs have been broken! Come to the house of Jagannath Misra and see for yourself. Clear your doubts, Sri Radha and Sri Krsna have descended in one body, in one form, that of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Sin: Very well, if by God's grace, the Vices have been defeated, then through Logic and Science I shall again establish my dominion.
Kali: Logic is easily drowned in the current of love of Godhead.
I can forsee the waves of love becoming too high for Science, who will then slip away in mortification. If you were, by chance, to get a glimpse of that enchanting Krsna, his charm would melt your heart of stone, too. Come, you may as well embrace defeat from the start. Before us is the house of Jagannath Misa where Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is adventing.

Sin: Alas! Who shall I confide my sorrow to? I control all the worlds and yet I have to bear with all this harrassment. Let us go and see Who has been born.

Kali: (alarmed) O my consort Sin, if you wish to stay with me, I urge you not to go!!! (to kirtan party) Stop it! Stop it! My head is about to burst!!! (He sits down as if he has a great headache.)

Sin: (to herself) Until this happened, our might was immeasurable! How could they deal such a blow? I must know! I must go... I must see how it could be so! (She turns, sees Kali is not watching and runs off.)

Kali: (immediately looks up and sees she's gone) Wait! Wait! Sin! You'll be entrapped by our foe! (He runs after her.)

Scene Two - The Forest

(Conscience, Renunciation and Devotion are seen on a forest path. Kirtan is still heard offstage.)

Conscience: Say, O good lady, for what further purpose should I remain on this Earth? Where shall I find my place of rest? I have been for so long now wandering. I enter each house with great expectation and leave with only frustration. Now, I have fled to this mountain sanctuary. I saw Yogis in deep meditation and felt a ray of hope - but now, when I think back on that particular incident, my heart shudders! Everyone, even the Yogis are totally submerged in their senses and are servile to Lust, Envy and the rest. Arrogance is kept long-locked inside, despising others yet making a show of being more advanced than others. They claim that their advancement is by their own efforts alone, yet without the grace of God, how is any advancement possible? Seeing all this I fled - ask my companion, Renunciation - he was with me.

Renunciation: Good lady, it is true what Conscience says! There I beheld a Yogi with long, matted hair, sitting with eyes closed. As we came closer, hearing our footsteps, he peered through the corner of his eye, thinking, "Who is that coming? Is he going to give me some money?" So greedy that he is never satisfied with anything; he grouses his frustration aloud. Having enough, we immediately left him.

Conscience: Then hear another strange story. A little further from that yogi's cave, we came across a Philosopher - lost in deep thought. He had renounced the material world of sense objects, a victor over the Vices, always meditating on how to benefit the society at large and as to what will make them happy. But alas, he himself is in the deepest of ignorance! He is convinced that modern science and technology are a sturdy foundation of human society. He would shout, "Electricity is our slave, to act at our finger-snap. The steam engines hurtle past, leaving everything behind. Science is success, technology is triumph!!" With a slash of his pen, he pompously writes that God is obsolete! Terrified, I ran from him.

Renunciation: There are still others who, under the cover of "Tantra" are giving support to irreligious practices. Rejecting sane social etiquette, they eat meat, take intoxicants and immorally enjoy women. How is it possible to stay on a planet with such as these?

Devotion: Our joyous days are here once again. Throw away your worries, the Supreme Lord, Hari, Who roams the Spiritual Abode of Goloka, has appeared. On seeing the misdirected population of Kali Yuga, our Supreme Lord has descended in a most novel incarnation. In His present form of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu He manifests the sublime loving dalliances of Sri Radha and Sri Krsna. He has come with the Holy Name that melts even the heart of stone. He will innundate all abundantly in ambrosia. Externally, He is Radha with Krsna hidden inside, He manifests an exchange of miraculous mellows never experienced in the previous ages. Glorious! How fortunate are the people of the Age of Kali to be able to participate in a grand festival of the Holy Names! Now, one can easily attain that which is so rare - Love of Krsna. Even birds and beasts are drowned in the love of Krsna; they vibrate with the divine sound of Hari! Hari!
(Kirtan becomes louder)
Listen! Give audience! What a joyful sound the Chanting of the Holy Names! The Earth revertebrates with the roaring waves of the Ocean of Mercy - Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu! Oh, how fortunate is the world today; Lord Gouranga has appeared in Nadia!

The Bhakta Yogis, once clinging to a faceless, formless idea of God - they are now totally submerged in meditation upon the name, form, personality and pastimes of Krsna! The eight Mystic Perfections, unable to tempt them, stand waiting to offer any service, with folded palms.

Look! Look! The Vidyahara Angels are coming in their spaceships to see Sri Caitanya! The sages and wisemen are coming, overwhelmed with the ecstasy of love of Godhead! Look

around you - everyone is dancing with upraised arms, singing the glories of the Supreme Lord Hari. There is no other sound; what a gushing exuberance! All the three worlds are resounding with this ecstatic chanting! Now who would want to go to to Goloka Vrndavana in the Spiritual World? Rather, we would stay here and swim in the blissful ocean of love of Godhead! Let us hasten, singing the Name of Hari, we shall see Madanmohan, Krsna.
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Everyone leaves. The Vidyahara angels, sages and wisemen enter in disguise. Everyone sings the Hare Krsna mantra.)

Vidyahara: My Lord, Kesava, kind to the down-trodden, roams the forest groves of Vraja Vrndavana. Madhava, Manomohan, Muralidhari! Let us all sing Hari! Haribol! Sri Gauranga Hari!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Lord Caitanya Impacts Kali #5

Scene Seven - A Forest Path

(Sin is on stage and Kali enters. A kirtan is heard offstage throughout the scene.)

Sin: My Lord, I have just seen the son of Sacidevi, Nimai! He is not a common personality; what unique loveliness He possesses! There is but one factor of His personality that may work to our advantage - it is said that "For one who is of a restless nature, good looks pose a formidable enemy to him. Whatever personality traits are exhibited excessively in the early years later become bludgeons of control in my hands! I see many personality traits in this Nimai that I can take advantage of: He has no regard for the Supreme Lord or for brahmanas, for one. He is always undisciplined - did you see how sensually agitated he became seeing those girls on the banks of the Ganga? Do not fear! As yet, I shall expand my domain on the Earth.

Kali: You have a myopic vision, you cannot fathom the feelings of this youth. He knows nothing other than love; intoxicated with affection, He plays with His friends. And, possessed by love He makes no discrimination of proper or inappropriate behavior. An abode of bliss, fearless, imperishable youthful body - He playfully snatches away some offerings meant for the Lord. Who minds? Whoever sees Nimai is immediately satiated by love.
   Take note, and understand His activities and purpose; what need has Nimai to propagate love? Whoever simply beheld this golden youth swims in an ocean of ecstasy. Don't speak of lust and agitation. Lust, with folded hands, offers Him service and Laksmidevi herself is present wherever Nimai is. Whatever foodstuff is offered at the lotus feet of Lord Visnu is mercifully received by Him and distributed to His devotees. Understand that this boy is fully self-satisfied, without a want. Just to teach the people, He, the Supreme Personality of God, has appeared, accepting a golden-hued form.

Sin: In the beginning, character traits are more or less under the control of desire, but later, they become rebellious. Look around you, is it not the rule of the day? The mind starts off as the ruler of the senses but as the senses become strong and impetuous, the mind slides into submission to them. Like a blind man fumbles around, aimless, driven to whatever direction the senses goad him, he acts. Mark my words, don't worry, I shall conquer this youth, Nimai.

Kali: Futile hopes! He who chants the Holy Names of the Lord vanquishes Yama, the god of Death! What power is in your possession to challenge the Devotees of the Supreme Lord? You judge Nimaito be a mere child but he s the teacher of the Holy Names for this Age. Incessantly chanting the Holy Names and enacting His pastimes with His friends, He gladly rushes the arms of anyone who loudly chants "Hari!" When He is restless and disturbed, He immediately becomes calm when Krsna's Name is chanted. Like the bumblebee is busy looking for honey, Nimai searches out the places of Hari Nam chanting and joins in with ecstatic dancing! What magic spell can you conjure up to subjugate this supernatural person, Nimai?
Just now, look at the scene in Navadvip: the demigods hasten to assemble and

witness His brahmana initiation ceremony. Loud kirtan is heard) Listen to the sound of Lord Hari's Name coming from the residence Jagannath Misra! Now, you have no place left in this world to stand.

Sin: I cannot bear to hear that Name. I fear the power of the Holy Name of Krsna! Hurry, let's get away from this place!
(They leave. Renunciation, Devotion and Conscience enter.)

Renunciation: Gracious Lady, how mysterious! In the Age of Kali, the Supreme Lord appeared and tricked the demon-king Bali, but what need was there for the Supreme Lord to appear again in this Age of Kali as Lord Vamana?

Devotion: Lord Caitanya's pastimes are unprecedented. Lord Narayana appears in every millennium to lighten the burden of sin in this world. It is for Him to decide whether a full incarnation or a partial incarnation. Previously, He had performed His nectarean pastimes with Radharani in Vrndavana; now in Nadia, Srimate Radharani and Sri Krsna have again both appeared, but this time as one person. This is of course not understandable by those of mundane consciousness. The spiritually sustained saint perceives in his heart every ecclesiastical detail while the profane populace, with a gross vision sees merely an ordinary child, the son of Sacidevi.
Today, the self-same Lord, as Nimai, will receive His brahmana initiation. Later, as is customary, He will beg donations from all. In this way, the devotees will see Him re-enacting His pastime as Lord Vamana.

Conscience: Reverend Lady! Why, in this Age of Kali, is the Lord manifesting all of His eternal pastimes?

Devotion: The people of Kali Yuga are short-lived and weak with no capacity for strenuous endeavors. Hence, for them, love and compassion are the only succor. Stunted in spiritual vision, with no foresight and swirled in a whirlpool of material anxiety, these men are plagued by doubts. So, when they see the Supreme Lord's transcendental pastimes, their misgivings disappear and they get a glimpse of the eternal. In other millenniums, spiritual paths were devoid of nectaran mellows because they worshipped the impersonal aspect of the Supreme Lord. In Kali Yuga, on the other hand, simultaneously with spiritual initiation, the disciple receives the Holy Name of the Lord. It is like drinking an ambrosia of ecstatic ethereal love of God and the process is chanting

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare.

The Holy Name, being non-different from the Supreme Lord Hari, Himself, has appeared in Nadia to spread the glories of the Holy Name.
This Nimai will traverse the land and distribute transcendental knowledge to all without discrimination. I see all this with perfect vision and everyone present will behold his absolute pastimes. See, the demigods and goddesses are approaching in their flying crafts to see the Supreme Lord's Vamana pastimes.

Renunciation: Gracious Lady, my doubts persist, so I ask you further: Lord Krsna performed His pastimes with the cowherd boys and maidens of Vrndavana. But now that Sri Radha and Sri Krsna have appeared in one form, where is Balarama, Sridama, Sudhama and the cowherd damsels?

Devotion: Perceive with your mystic vision. An anchorite, in sublime trance, is wandering in Nilacala. His name is Sri Nityananda - He is Balarama. While in Nadia, the associates of the Lord are all in brilliant incorporeal forms. Some of them are cowherd boys and some of them are Vraja damseels. The intrinsic individual moods of the different associates of Vrndavana are secretly residing in the inner most cores of their hearts. Nimai is the Supreme Personality of God, Lord Krsna, though His potencies are manifested in slightly variegated forms, this due to the variegations of reciprocating devotional mellows exchanged between the Lord and His devotees. Nimai's pastimes with His asociates, therefore, are the pristine replica of the mood of Vraja Lila.

Renunciation: Speak, Devotion! Dispel my doubts! This incarnation is in the mood of Srimate Radharani, yet why does He give this ecstacy away to all freely?

Devotion: The gopis of Vrndavana immersed in love of Krsna desired their own appeasement. Srimati Radharani's love for Krsna is like an ocean of bliss that creates tidal waves of joy in veryone's heart. The very essence of the Hladini Shakti - the pleasure potency of Krsna is Srimate Radhika's love. To experience that loving mellow of Srimate Radhika, Kalacandra Krsna appears as Mahaprabhu, steeped in that mood. The world will become engladdened with this quintessential love of Krsna. And Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu has especially appeared to distribute drops from this ocean. Receiving these, all will despise the aspiration for salvation and men will rise on the waves of ecstasy. Let us go and see this lovely youth performing the incredible pastimes of Lord Vamana.

Conscience: Yet, somehow, my ponderings persist. Where, for example, is the Vatsalya, parental mellow to be experienced in its entirety?

Devotion: The introspective saint has all the pastimes of the Lord within his heart. Mother Yasoda opened the mouth of Krsna and saw the entire cosmos within His mouth; Nimai informed Mother Saci of all the happenings of the Universe, sitting in one place. Nimai, like Krsna, carried His father's shoes upon his Head. His parents would hear the tinkle of ankle bells although no bells were visible on Nimai. Like Krsna and His friends stole the butter of the gopis, so Nimai snatched the offerings of the young girls at the Ganges bank. The yogis there tried to chase Nimai, but it was like trying to catch the moon! Mother Saci's chastisement of Nimai is like Mother Yasoda trying to tie up Damodara Krsna. Krsna killed the demons sent by Kamsa but Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu will subjugate the fierce scholars by His causeless love and moonlike loveliness. Together with His friends, He played with affection and fraternity, profusely emanating warm fraternal love. The penultimate conjugal love, He will yet manifest in the sunshine of His blooming youth - let us not delay! Listen and see the wonderful pastimes of Nimai. In His youth He defeated hundreds of great scholars in debates on the Vedas and became famous as Nimai Pandit! (This leads into a play depicting Nimai Pandit defeating the scholar Keshava Kasmiri.)
(All leave. Music or Intermission)

Childhood Pastimes of Lord Caitanya

Narrator: On the full moon eve of the month of Phalguna, during a lunar eclipse, the Lord appeared. Because of the eclipse, everyone was chanting "Hari Hari!" in great jubilation. Therefore, Lord Chaitanya appeared after first causing the appearance of the Holy Name.(Kirtan party enters and chants "Haribol!" Mother Saci carries out baby Nimai. Jagannath Mishra is also there.)

Scene Three - The Home of Jagannatha Misra

Misra: (to priest) Please hear my extraordinary experience: I saw a bright light emanating from my wife. She had informed me, some days before, that day and night she hears blissful celestial chanting and the tinkling ankle bells of celestial dancers. Sometimes, her room became pervaded by the sweet fragrance of unknown flowers. Other times, when she was unmindful, soft incantations would become audible, as if someone was coming in and out of the room. She carries a child in her womb, thus she feels every reason to be alarmed, for she does not know the import of all these supernatural happenings.

Hearing my wife narrate this, I suddenly remembered my own mysterious dream:

It was toward the end of the night - I was in deep slumber when suddenly the room was flooded with illumination and I felt my body tingle with exhilaration. Effulgent beings surrounded me - dancing, singing and clapping their hands. One addressed me thus, "Due to your immeasurable good fortune, the Supreme Personality of God will appear through you and remain in this material world." Explain to me, O scholar, how your astrological calculations explain these occurrences.

Priest: There is very little that I can make out; the symptoms are all so wonderful! I saw the child's astrological chart; He has taken birth under an auspicious astrological sign, bright as the sun. Yet, according to my calculations, if He was blackish in color, I would have easily declared Him to be an incarnation of the Supreme Lord, Narayana. Excepting His complexion, all the symptoms of an incarnation are clearly indicating in His horoscope. His color confuses me.
(Bhajan by angels is heard by Jagannath Misra and priest. Priest dances, too.)

Misra: Please tell me, what do you see in my son? Why do you dance and sing the names of Hari in this manner? I have lost eight daughters and this causes me consternation. Now, in my newborn son, I see such auspicious symptoms that I wonder whether He will remain to light my last days. Kindly tell me, why do you glorify the Supreme Lord Hari so profusely?

1st Sage: Have the residents of Navadvip lost their vision? I see before me the Supreme God Incarnate and yet the citizens here have no change of mentality.

Priest: Without a doubt, He has all the signs of the Supreme Absolute. Yet, I am bewildered as to why He appeared with a golden hue.

2nd Sage: How wonderful; His pastimes! Combinedly He has appeared as Sri Radhika and Sri Krsna in this incarnation. The Supreme Lord has advented along with His internal Hladini potency and has thus appeared as the very embodiment

of this pleasure potency, Hladini Sakhi. As Gouranga, He includes all of His diverse potencies. Even the impersonal Brahman is included within His personal form.

Vidyahara: What necessitates such elaborate arguments and elucidations? Look how beautiful Gouranga's form is! See how it steals the very mind. Has anyone in all the three worlds seen such exquisite sweetness? The heart melts, the mind is numb, awestruck. The Lord is resplendent with the golden hue through and through, within as well as on the outside and everywhere He goes! The Crest Jewel, Lord of All Excellences, has come and freed the Universe of all sin. So sing! Let us all sing!
(Bhajan by Vidyaharas.)

Scene Four - Baby Nimai Cries

Saci: O Jagannath Misra Prabhu, come see the marks on the floor! Have you ever seen anything like it?

Jagannath: Saci, these footprints! The marks of Lord Vishnu are here - the flag, thunderbolt, conchshell, disk and fish!

Saci: How is these marks possible in our home?

Jagannath: Certainly, Child Krsna is within the Shaligram Sila. Taking his childhood form He is playing within the room.

Saci: How can this be? Oh, there is Nimai, waking up for nap. It's alright, Nimai, here sit with me.

Jagannath: I can't believe that child Krsna has blessed our home! What have we done to get such mercy?

Saci: Jagannath Misra Prabhu, come quickly and see!

Jagannath: What?!? Look at Nimai's feet! Here are the marks we saw on the floor. How is this possible? Wait - I will call the astrologer, Nilambhara Cakravarti. He is an expert astrologer and can tell us what this means.
(Jagannath Mishra exits. Nimai is center stage, some ladies enter and surround Nimai, doing various activities. Nimai begins crying)

Saci:Oh no, don't cry, little one!

1st Lady:It's alright, little Nimai. (Nimai cries louder. Mother Saci begins singing Hare Krishna, He stops)

2nd Lady: Oh look, He stopped crying!

1st Lady: Yes, when you chant, He stops.

2nd Lady: Oh, but look, He's starting to cry again! (Nimai cries)

1st Lady: Quickly, let's chant again!
(They chant, Nimai gradually stops crying)

2nd Lady: Oh good, He stopped again.

1st Lady: I think Nimai is playing a game with us.
(Nimai begins crying again)

2nd Lady: You're right! Now we must always chant the maha-mantra! (they all chant and Nimai smiles) Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare

Narrator: In this way the Lord was showing that His life's purpose was to spread this Sankirtana movement.

Scene Five - Nimai Eats the Brahmana's Offering

Narrator: On another occasion, the Lord ate the foodstuffs of a Brahmana guest three times, and later, in confidence, the Lord delivered that Brahmana from material engagement. (knock at door)

Jagannath: Sacidevi! Someone is at the door. Please go see who it is. (Mother Saci opens the door.)

Saci:Oh, just a moment, I'll go get my husband.

Jagannath:Hello, oh my dear Brahmana. Please come in. You must be tired from traveling from one place of pilgrimage to another. Please sit down. Sacidevi, please go get this Brahmana something cool to drink.
(to Brahmana) You must have traveled very far and be very tired. Please rest yourself in my home.

Brahmana: I have been touring all over the country, traveling from one place of pilgrimage to the next and now I have reached Navadvip. You are so kind to have taken me in.

Jagannath: Certainly, a devotee of Lord Vishnu is welcome in my house anytime. Is there anything else I can get for you?

Brahmana: Oh, no. I am fine, thank you, but would it be possible to have some ingredients to prepare an offering for my Gopal Deity.

Jagannath: Yes, yes. Sacidevi, please go get our guest some milk, rice and sugar so that he can prepare sweet-rice for his Gopal Deity. Here, sir,you may have this room for your worship. (they exit)

Brahmana: Thank you. Hmmm, let's see ... I will make an altar over here.now. Now, I will prepare some sweet-rice. (he mixes, etc., and sings "Govinda Jaya Jaya, Gopala Jaya Jaya, Radha Ramana Hari, Govinda Jaya Jaya.") Now, it is ready to offer. (he bows down and begins to offer "Namo brahmanya devaya..." when Nimai approaches and eats the bhoga. Brahmana looks up) What? Why did you do that? You have spoiled my offering! Where is your father? Jagannath Mishra! Jagannath Mishra!

Jagannath: What is it? What is wrong?

Brahmana: Your son has spoiled my offering! He has taken it before I was through!

Jagannath: Oh, I am very sorry! Nimai! You shouldn't have done a thing like that. Come with me and play in the other room. Leave the Brahmana alone, to worship his Deity.

Brahmana: Thank you. Oh well, children are innocent, I'll do it again. (the Brahmana prepares again as before. When he begins to offer, Nimai again eats the bhoga. The Brahmana looks up) What? Not again! You naughty boy! You've spoiled my offering again! Innocent or not you cannot eat the offering before it is offered.
(calls) Jagannath Mishra! Your son has done it again. He has spoiled my offering again!

Jagannath:I can't understand it, Nimai never acts this way. This time, I will put Nimai to bed! It is late so I am sure He will not bother you anymore.

Brahmana: Alright, I'll try again. Let me make the sweet rice again. Again it is ready to offer. (He repeats the same procedure. Nimai comes in and eats the bhoga) No, no! Not again! What has been done? What has been done? I guess Lord Vishnu does not want me to eat today!

Narrator: Seeing the Brahmana in such an agitated state the Lord revealed His form as Krsna and spoke to the Brahmana as follows:

Nimai: You asked Me to come and eat so I did.

Brahmana: This is no ordinary talk; You say I asked You to eat?

Nimai: If you had not invited Me, why should I eat your rice?
My dear Brahmana, formerly I was the son of Mother Yasoda. At that time, you were a guest in the house of Nanda Maharaja and I disturbed you in the same way. I am very much pleased with your devotion, therefore I am eating the foodstuff that you have prepared.

Brahmana: My dear Lord, please forgive my offenses! I did not recognize You. You are the Supreme Lord, Narayana, in the guise of a boy. Again You have appeared, my Lord, how wonderful is Your birth and unparagoned pastimes. Your activities are a joyful festival for the devotees. O Lord, remove my illusion! Even as ignorant as I am, Your petite, boyish form, luminous like moon rays, has brought me waves of bliss never experienced before! You have appeared before me, my Lord, out of Your causeless mercy, please sever the knot of my material entanglement and keep me ever in the shade of Your rarely attained Lotus Feet!
(fade out, Nimai leaves)

Nimai:Do not disclose this incident to anyone. Go on in your worship of Me in the form of Gopal.

Brahmana: Oh, Thank you, Lord! Thank you! (Nimai exits.
(Jagannath Misra enters the room of his guest. The guest is chanting and

dancing in ecstasy)

Misra: Honorable sir, you have not yet taken your meal?

Brahmana: I am fully satisfied, sir Misra. Oh, truly, how very fortunate you are! The Supreme Lord has come as your son! I have eaten Maha Prasad - food stuff offered to the Lord and left by the Lord as His mercy! But this foodstuff has fallen from the lips of that Lord! Now, I do not feel any more hunger of thirst.
By the grace of Your son, the entire Universe will become satisfied! I am so overwhelmed by your hospitality, sir; now please offer me one last benediction: both you and your good wife should bless me with the dust from your feet!

Misra: Honorable, sir, please! But all your food stuff is just lying on the plate

Brahmana: I shall take this Maha Prasad with me and distribute it wherever I go! My dear Misra, you do not seem to fully comprehend as to Who your son, Nimai, really is! Please, call your good wife and partake of this Maha Prasad, too!

Misra: (calls) Saci! Saci! Come and see - what a disaster! Nimai has once again contaminated the food of our guest!
(Mother Saci enters)

Saci: What!? Where did Nimai run off to? I had kept Him sitting in His room! Dear sir, please forgive the child's unknowing offence!

Brahmana: Mother, please hear my story - when I offered the cooked food stuff to my Deity, I felt that He, being pleased, was accepting and eating my offering so I opened my eyes. But, I saw your son eating! At first, I thought little of it but thrice the same feelings and vision occurred! To determine a solution, I entered into meditation and I saw that my Lord had indeed eaten the offering with much satisfaction and that your son is my worshipable Supreme Lord. So, both of you bless me that I may remain with undeterred faith in my Lord. I beg to take your leave now; please do not nurture any uncertainty - the Supreme Object of Worship resides in your home!
(The brahmana leaves.)

Scene Six - Nimai At Home

(Nimai enters and breaks a clay pot. Saci runs in.)

Saci: Nimai, what are you doing? You've knocked over my pot! All the milk is wasted!

Nimai: Watch Me knock over another one!

Saci: Stop! This is terrible! Oh, where is Your father?

Nimai: My father is old and can do nothing to stop me.

Saci: (calls) Jagannath Misra! Would you come here, please?
(Jagannath Misra enters)

Jagannath Misra: What is the difficulty now? I'm trying to study the scriptures! Can't a man study at home anymore?

Saci: Look what Nimai has done!

Jagannath Misra: Nimai!

Nimai: My dear Father, I hope that you will not chastise Me, for if you do I shall break more pots.

Jagannath Misra: Oh dear! What can be done? Whenever we correct You, You become twice as naughty!

Nimai: I am not afraid of chastisement so no one can teach Me anything. No one can correct Me.
(Visvarupa, the elder brother of Nimai enters.)

Visvarupa: Nimai, did You do this? My dear brother, You have made such a mess. Clean it up, immediately.

Nimai: Yes, Sri Visvarupa, I will clean it up. Is there anything else You'd like Me to do?
(all exit as Nimai begins to clean up. music)

Narrator: As Nimai is none other than Sri Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Nimai's elder brother, Visvarupa, is Lord Balarama. From His birth, Visvarupa was completely renounced and exhibited all saintly qualities. Nimai, although listening to neither His mother nor His father, would become meek and humble in the presence of His elder Brother. (Music)

Scene Seven - At Advaita Acarya's Ashram

Advaita Acarya: Ah, Visvarupa, please come inside. We are discussing the path of Bhakti Yoga!

Visvarupa: Bhakti is the essence of all Shastra, but people neither teach Bhakti nor practice it.

Advaita Acarya: True, materialistic men find no pleasure in service to Krishna. They are too selfish.

Devotee: And too foolish! The local men in Nadia even laugh at a man just for being a Vaisnava! One foolish fellow said to me,
"If even renounced sannyasis and great yogis performing austerities have to die, then what is the use of your efforts. It is better to collect money and ride on a palanquin with twenty servants running behind. Then at least your name will live on in the history of your community."

Advaita Acharya: They are mad after mundane achievements such as wealth,

education and good family. They never chant Lord Hari's Names.

Visvarupa: Their ignorance fills Me with sadness!
(Nimai enters quickly)

Narrator: When Nimai entered the house of Advaita Acharya, all the devotees became stunned. He was bare-chested and covered with dirt from playing. Nimai smiled and glanced all around at the devotees.

Nimai: Brother, come home and eat. Mother has sent Me to bring You home. She's waiting for You.

Devotee: Nimai! His beautiful form has charmed my heart!

Advaita Acarya: I cannot understand Who this Child is! His beauty is beyond compare!

Devotee: His smiling face and darting eyes have captured me. Now I can no longer concentrate on my studies.
(Nimai catches hold of Visvarupa's dhoti and both exit. The devotees follow Them, in a stunned condition, to the door.)

Devotee: Perhaps Nimai is a demigod Who has been sent to bewilder us with His beautiful features.

Advaita Acarya: I cannot say, but I know that He is not an ordinary child! (music, then Visvarupa enter again) Visvarupa, You have returned so quickly! Jai! We shall now go to the house of Srinivas Acarya for kirtana.

Visvarupa: Yes, I told my parents that I was fasting and would chant the Holy Names all through the night. (all exit)

Scene Eight - The Ashram of Jagannath Misra

Saci: Visvarupa spends all His time with the Vaisnavas. Even while at home, He takes no part in family affairs. Rather, he will study the scriptures and worship Salagram Sila.

Jagannath Misra: Sacidevi, I think it is time to find Visvarupa a wife.

Saci: Well, there are many nice Brahmana families in Navadvip. I have seen girls of marriageable age by the river.

Jagannath Misra: I will begin inquiring. A wife for Visvarupa will have to be very religious and gentle.
(They exit. Visvarupa enters, disturbed at what He has overheard.)

Visvarupa: My parents are going to plan my marriage?! This is terrible news! I have no desire to be entangled in material affairs! I'd rather take sannyasa and live in the forest, meditating always on Lord Krsna. I will leave tonight.
(music)

Scene Nine - The Next Day

Jagannath Misra: Oh, Visvarupa! I feel as though my life has ended! Visvarupa! Where have you gone!?

Saci: Visvarupa! Visvarupa! I cannot go on living without my son!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa! Why have you left us?!
(Devotee neighbors cone running in)

1st Devotee: What's happened? What calamity has befallen you? I've never seen you so upset!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa has left us. He's run away. We were planning His marriage ... now ... I fear he will take sannyasa, the renounced order of life! I will never see Him again!

2nd Devotee: Oh no! Visvarupa! What shall we do! He has always been such a joy to my life! (He puts his hand on Jagannath Misra's shoulder) My dear friend, I also feel great pain. I also love Him as a son ... but how will losing ourselves in lamentation help?

Jagannath Misra: (sigh) But ...

1st Devotee: Try thinking about it this way - what Visvarupa has done is glorious. Everyone always knew that someday he would take sannyasa and set out to preach near and far. Just think about how His taking sannyasa has delivered your entire family ...

Jagannath Misra: All I know is the pain of my heart, throbbing in separation. Oh, Visvarupa!

1st Devotee: Calm yourself. Calm yourself. Having one son like Nimai is better than having millions of sons. He has strong faith in Krsna, but He is not the renunciate type. Nimai will always stay with His friends and relatives in the village!

2nd Devotee: Yes, think about Nimai! He will remove all Your suffering! His mere glance is as cooling as the rays of the full moon!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa!

2nd Devotee: We never knew how long He would stay with us.

1st Devotee: Lord Krsna gave us Visvarupa and now the Lord Himself has taken Him back. What can be done! Whatever Lord Krsnacandra desires must certainly occur!
(music. all exit)

Scene Ten

Jagannath Misra: Nimai, come here and help Your Mother.

Nimai: Yes, Father.

Saci: Carry these pots, please.

Nimai: Yes, Mother. May I do anything else to help you?

Jagannath Misra: Since Your brother left, You've become so gentle and well-behaved! (Jagannath Misra embraces Nimai.)

Nimai: Father, may I have your permission to go and study?

Jagannath Misra: Yes, certainly, Nimai. (Nimai leaves)

Saci: Nimai has changed so much! Now we have nothing but praise for Him. Our neighbors say that no one can match His scholarship or defeat His arguments. He is so serious about His studies, as well.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, and that seriousness is just what frightens me.
Saci: Why? What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: It was Visvarupa's serious study of the scriptures that led Him to take sannyasa. By studying Bhagavad Gita, He learned that not a shred of value exists in material life. If Nimai continues to study, I fear He will follow His brother and take sannyasa.

Saci: (gasp) Nimai is all we have!

Jagannath Misra: If He leaves us, I will die! I must stop His studies! It is better that He remains illiterate!

Saci: But, if He is illiterate, how will He maintain Himself? And who will allow their daughter to marry Him?

Jagannath Misra: Don't worry, Krsna provides for everyone, whether the person is educated or not. And anyway, education doesn't insure wealth.

Saci: What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: Take me for example: We are sufficiently learned, but we don't even have an excess of food in our house. But there are some persons who, without even knowing the Sanskrit alphabet, are able to live in luxury. Everything depends on Krsna.

Saci: But if Nimai doesn't study, what will He do with His time?

Jagannath Misra: Anything He likes ... anything but study the scriptures! (they exit)

Narrator: That evening, when Nimai returned from school, He was told that His studies were terminated. Being obedient to His Father's wishes, He remained at home. Nimai didn't complain, but He again resumed His naughty, restless behavior.

Nimai Teases the Brahmanas and Unmarried Girls at the River Bank

Scene One - In the Courtyard

1st Boy: Nimai, are You going to school?

Nimai: Oh no, my brothers, Father has said that I don't have to study. You also should not go; we will play in the sacred Ganges.

1st Friend: Tell me, Friend, why doesn't Your father allow You to study?

Nimai: My elder brother, Visvarupa, took to the life of a renunciate mendicant; my father is afraid that I might also become a sanyassi, so he does not allow me to go to school. Come let us play!

1st Friend: Are you sure that your father will not thrash us?

Nimai: What? We'll simply stay away from him.

1st Friend: Okay, then.

2nd Friend: Then you give the excuses, Nimai.

Nimai: That's all right, I'll do so; but come let's play the pastimes of Krsna.

Song:
Where is my groves of Vrndavan, My loving mother, Yasoda?
Where is Nanda, my father, My dear brother, the strong Balarama?
Where is fair Shymali, Radhe and my enchanting little flute?
Where shall I find another friend like the cowherd boys, Sridhama and Sudhama.
Where is flowing My Yamuna, whose banks I like to roam?
Vamsivata is dear to Me, that is my real home.
I do not see my beloved gopis, they must be somewhere around
Let Me go look for Radhe; how can I stay alone?

I shall not return here anymore.
Now that I have come in a golden hue
I have left my flute to traverse many lands - a beggar with a bowl.
I shal find what love my Radhe has
I shall not return home anymore.

2nd Boy: Nimai, that was a wonderful song!

Nimai: Boys, boys! Come quickly! I have a plan!

1st Boy: Yes, yes. What is it?

2nd Boy: We're ready!

Nimai: Look at those banana trees, they are full of bananas! Let's steal them!

1st Boy: Yeah!

2nd Boy: Alright, that will be easy!

Nimai: And tonight, when it is dark we can tie the doors of our neighbors on all side with rope and in the morning, when they awaken, they will be locked inside!

1st Boy: Let's go fight with the boys in town!

Nimai: No, I know an old lady who lives near here, let's go and smash all her clay pots!

2nd Boy: Very good! Very good!

Nimai: Then we can splash old men at the Ganges River!
(they exit. music)

Scene Twelve - At the River Bank

1st Brahmana: OOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOMMMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

1st Brahmana: What was that? Hmmmm! OOOOOOOOOMMMMMMM! OOOOOOMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

1st Brahmana:OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMM!

Nimai: (splashes Brahmana and laughs) Ha ha!

1st Brahmana: What? What are you doing? I'm meditating!

Nimai: What is this OM? Chant Hare Krsna! It is unnecessary for you to meditate any longer, Sri Sadhu, as you can see the object of your meditation is now standing before you.

1st Brahmana: You little rascal! I'll teach You!

Nimai: Watch your temper, Sri Sadhu! Remember - you're meditating! Chant Hare Krsna, instead!

1st Brahmana: Chant Hare Krsna, eh? You impudent brat, don't you tell me how to meditate. I'm a dozen years Your elder and if I catch You ... (He starts to chase Nimai.)

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: Get out of here right now!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!
(They run about in a circle then Nimai goes off and 2nd Brahmana enters.)

2nd Brahmana: Hello Sivatma, meditating are you?

1st Brahmana: Well, yes, actually I was ... in fact I was almost merged with the Void when I heard a definite loud OM in response and then He splashed me in the face!

2nd Brahmana: Who?! The Void?

1st Brahmana: No, the boy! The boy!

2nd Brahmana: Ohhhh.

1st Brahmana: Then He demanded that I chant some silly mantra ... what was it? Uhhh ...

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: Yes, that's it! Hey, that's Him!

2nd Brahmana: Oh, I know that Boy, who could forget that golden hue? That's Jagannath Misra's son. What was His Name? Ah yes, Nimai! He was born on the night of the eclipse some years ago. So He is a nuisance, eh?

1st Brahmana: He certainly is!

2nd Brahmana: (Calling Nimai over) Shame, shame Nimai! Yes, I know Your name and Your father's too. You belong in school, not running up and down the Ganges taunting sadhus who sit to meditate upon Brahman, throwing water in their faces! You are so disrespectful!

Nimai: But, I am full of respect for those worthy of it - the Ganges, the Holy Scriptures and Krsna's Holy Name, therefore I respectfully request you to Chant Hare Krsna!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!
(Nimai runs off)

1st Brahmana: There He goes again! I think that the boy is stark, raving mad! The eclipse of the sun on the day He was born has had some effect on Him, I'm sure of it.

2nd Brahmana: Yes, someone should be informed. His father is both a scholar and a well respected man of Navadvip. It is indeed unfortunate that one should have such a crazy one for a son. I sympathize!

1st Brahmana: In any case, I'll chase Him away! Get out of here, You unmanageable wretch! Go on, scram ! Get out of here!

Nimai: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

(The 1st Brahmana chases Nimai off stage.)

2nd Brahmana: "Ah, such is the age, from the sorrow and strife the Holy Ganges is not exempt. A carnival of demons is abrew, those who conquer passion are too few."

1st Brahmana: There (whew) I gave that Golden Rascal a good chase, even at my age. He won't be coming back soon, thank God!

2nd Brahmana: Sivatma, you should restrain yourself. Stress is not good for a man of your age.

Both: Let's meditate! OOOOOOMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

2nd Brahmana: Oh no He's back!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: This is too much!

2nd Brahmana: You better run, You rascal!

Nimai: (Jumps up from bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!
Both: OH, NO!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: This is too much!

1st Brahmana: I don't believe it! You better run right now!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: You should be arrested!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: Catch Him!

1st Brahmana: Get out of here! Get out of here!
(They chase Nimai off stage.

Scene Thirteen - Disturbing the Young Girls

(Nimai and His friends approach a group of young girls engaged in a religious ceremony.)

Narrator: It was the common practice in Nimai's village for the unmarried girls to worship Lord Siva in hopes of getting a good husband. While they were engaged in their worship young Nimai would come there with His friends and sit among them. Addressing the girls, the Lord would say:

Nimai: My dear sisters, please give Me all the offerings you have brought for Lord Siva. The Ganges and the Goddess Durga are My maidservants. Even Lord Siva is My servant.
(Nimai picks up garland and puts it on.)

1st Girl: Dear Nimai, You are just like our brother in our village relationship, therefore You should not act like this!
(Nimai grabs the plate of sweets and starts to eat them.The boys laugh. The girls are horrified.)

2nd Girl: Don't take our paraphernalia for worship!

3rd Girl: Don't create a disturbance in this way! I will go to Your mother, You know!

Nimai: My dear sisters, if you give Me all the offerings you have brought for Lord Siva, I will give you the benediction that your husbands will be very handsome. They will be clever, learned and young. Not only that, but will each of you will have seven sons and great wealth! (The girls smile shyly but externally they rebuke the Lord under the pretense of anger.)

1st Girl: We do not believe You! Let's go!
(The girls quickly gather up the paraphernalia to leave.)

2nd Girl: What benediction can <u>You</u> give, anyway!?

Nimai: If you are miserly and do not give Me all the offerings, then every one of you will have an old husband and at least four co-wives!!

Narrator: Hearing this supposed curse by Nimai, the girls considered that He might know something uncommon or be empowered by the demigods. Since they were afraid that His curse might be effective, they brought the offerings before Nimai who ate then blessed the girls to obtain their heart's wishes.

1st Girl: Here, Nimai, take these sweets.

Nimai: You will beget seven sons and your larder will be filled with rich harvest. All your sons will be well educated. (to 2nd Girl) Why don't you give us something, too?

2nd Girl: Be away with you! Don't make mischief. I am making this offering to Lord Siva!

Nimai: So, you're not going to give to the brahmanas? You will have to share your husband with four co-wives!

2nd Girl: No no no, don't curse me, Nimai! Here take this.

Nimai: Okay, then! You also will have seven sons who will study the Vedas. All of you listen - I am Visnu; whatever offerings you have brought should be given to Me. If I eat, then your worship is successful. (to friends) Here, my dear brothers, you should also take your share.

(Nimai takes the foodstuffs and distributes them to His friends and starts to leave.)

1st Girl: Are You not going to eat anything at all?

Nimai: You carry on, I will get more for Myself.

2nd Girl: Shameless! He has snatched away our offerings again!

1st Girl: No girl can resist Nimai's glances!

2nd Girl: Nimai has spoiled our puja for today, anyway. Here Nimai, tell me if you like this fruit salad I have prepared.
(Nimai eats and eats, passing some remnants to the other boys.)

3rd Girl: Please lie down here in the shade and I will fan You!
(Music)

Nimai: Everyone chant Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

1st Girl: (pointing at 2nd Girl) Say, Nimai, what sort of husband will she have?

Nimai: I don't know, what does she have to offer?

1st Girl: Here, take her offerings.

Nimai: No, she does not even sing Hari Bol, I will not take her offering.

1st Girl: Just see this girl's beautiful face - how do You like her? Do You want to marry her?

Nimai: (to 2nd Girl) Laksmi, let me hear how you chant Hari Bol.

Laksmi: Hari Bol, Hari Bol. But, I will not part with this offering, too.

Nimai: I do not want it. (to others) She is not giving Me her offering so I am going away.

Laksmi: No, no, just wait. We will all sing and dance for You!
(Nimai and His friends leave. The girls talk excited amongst themselves until Jagannath Misra enters.)

Scene Fourteen

Brahmana: Oooommmmmmmmm
(Nimai snatches the offering of the Brahmana.)

Brahmana: What!? Put that back, it is for Visnu!

Nimai: Lord Visnu eats through the brahmanas. By feeding Me, you will be able to reach Vaikuntha, the Spiritual Abode of Lord Visnu.

Brahmana: Impudent brat! Do You want a thrashing?

Nimai: Let's see you catch Me. You cannot even race Me to the water's edge!

Brahmana: Rather, if You take the Deity's offering before it is prasad, You will be destroyed.

Nimai: No, you will be destroyed!
(Nimai runs back to His friends. They all run off the stage, then Nimai returns alone.)

Nimai: Oh Me, alone at last! Flow on Mother Ganges - what fools sit upon your banks today? What silly, boy crazed girls with their offerings? What pompous old men holding their breath and for what? So they may (in a pompous voice) "float upon the moon like a balloon" or pop! Ha Ha! Oh how they meditate! I think I would pop if all I had to do was sit around each day shouting "OOOOMMM!" Ha Ha! How can anyone think of anything else but Govinda? How can they even breathe without saying His Name - Krsna! Krsna! Krsna!?
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Music)

Scene Fifteen - The Unmarried Girls

1st Girl: He likes you, Laksmi, I know He does!

Laksmi: And I want to marry Him, too. I will put away all my paraphernalia for worshipping Lord Siva and simply wait for Nimai to finish His schooling.
(Jagannath Misra enters.)

Misra: Excuse me, but have you seen my Nimai by the river?

1st Girl: Why, He just left, sir. He was snatching and eating all our offerings to Lord Siva.

Misra: What! Eating the offerings? Which way did that naughty boy go?

1st Girl: No no, do not scold Him! How could He possibly force us if we did not want to give our offerings to Him?

2nd Girl: Everyone loves Nimai, so!

Misra: I know, I know, but it is my duty to chastise Him! Otherwise, how will He learn what is right and what is wrong? Good day, young ladies!
(He hurries on and meets the Brahmana.)

Brahmana: Jagannath Misra, how can I describe your great fortune? What an extra-ordinary personality your son is! It is beyond my capacity to understand! I was offering oblation to Lord Visnu when Nimai came and grabbed it from me!

Angrily, I chased after a running Nimai but suddenly I heard the most wonderful sound of dancing ankle bells! But He had no ankle bells! I thought that I was mistaken, but then I noticed His footprints on the soft earth. The marks of flag, lightning and a cowherd's goad could be clearly seen - I stood for a moment stunned. Visnu or a great personality has appeared do not chastise Him!

Misra: A real wonder! It is so difficult to know what to do. Everyone speaks of Nimai in this way; I cannot understand the reason. I know Him only as my son. His mother also speaks about hearing ankle bells … could it be?

Everyone’s Talking About Nimai

Scene One- At Jagannath Misra's Residence

1st Devotee: (Three devotees enter hurriedly) Saci devi!

Sacimata: Yes, I'm over here.

1st Devotee: Did you hear about Nimai?

Sacimata: Nimai? What happened to Him? Is He all right?

1st Devotee: Is He all right? You should ask about the poor Brahmanas He's been playing tricks on! What a rascal He is!

Sacimata: Oh, thank Heavens!

1st Devotee: Thank Heavens He's playing tricks on the Brahmanas?

Sacimata: No, I didn' t mean that; I'm just happy that nothing has happened to my precious child, Nimai.

1st Devotee: Oh, you can expect something to happen all right.
My brother told me that Nimai pulled Keshava Pandit's legs right out from under him while he was standing in the Ganges River chanting his gayatri mantra, today.

Sacimata: No, not Keshava Pandit! He's always so serious!!

2nd Devotee: And it takes him twice as long to chant gayatri as it does anyone else!

3rd Devotee: Hush!

2nd Devotee: Well, it's true. That must have been funny!

1st Devotee: It was! My brother said that Keshava Pandit was so mad that his face looked just like a fish because his eyes got so big!!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: What did he do?

1st Devotee: What did who do?

Sacimata: Keshava Pandit. He must have ran after Nimai?

2nd Devotee: No one ever catches Nimai. He's too fast.

1st Devotee: Of course he tried to run after Nimai, but he didn't get very far. He was huffing and puffing before he'd run even ten feet! You should have seen him!

2nd Devotee: I wish I could have been there!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: You girls should not speak so of your elders!

2nd Devotee: Yes. Oh look, here's Rupa!

Sacimata: Hello Rupa. What brings you out here?

Rupa: I just wanted to drop off some mangoes from our garden.
(Rupa hands over a sack.)

Sacimata: How nice, thank you!

Rupa: Is Nimai here?

Sacimata: No, He's not back from bathing yet.

2nd Devotee: You told me that you had to help your mother sew for the market on Sunday.

Rupa: Well, I do. Weren't you going to make butter, today?

2nd Devotee: I did, I'm doing it I mean I'm almost done.

1st Devotee: It's obvious that your son is like Cupid, Saci devi. He has captured all our hearts.

Rupa: Did you hear how Nimai stole Manu's offering, yesterday?

1st Devotee: I heard about it from my brother.

2nd Devotee: I didn't hear about it at all, tell me.

Rupa: Manu had his eyes closed and Nimai crept up and grabbed the whole offering he was making - the laddhus (sweets), the sweet rice, the garland - everything! Nimai even started to eat the sweets as He was running away.

3rd Devotee: Did you ever hear of such a trick!

2nd Devotee: Oh, that's not all! While Manu was chasing Him, Nimai kept yelling back, "You've called Me and I have come, why are you so angry?" And Nimai was laughing the whole time!

All: (laughter)

3rd Devotee: I thought you didn't hear about it.

2nd Devotee: Well, I may have heard part of it.

3rd Devotee: He's so bad!

2nd Devotee: Do you think He'll get a reaction for being so naughty?

1st Devotee: You know, Saci devi, Nimai stays in the water until past two o'clock every day; that can't be good for His health.

2nd Devotee: No, of course not.

Rupa: Saci Mata, your son has been behaving badly to us girls, lately when we go to bathe in the Ganges.

2nd Devotee: You won't believe the mean tricks that He's been playing.

Sacimata: Oh, dear!

Rupa: Yesterday, we saw Him sneak up behind Chintamani and yell "HARI BOL!" right in her ear!

2nd Devotee: He frightened her so that I thought she was going to faint!

Rupa: And that was after He took all the fruits and flowers we'd brought to the Ganges to use in our puja and threw them all over the banks!

2nd Devotee: Who does Nimai think He is, a prince or something?

1st Devotee: Actually, all these naughty pranks of His remind me of the pastimes of Gopal Krsna in Vrndavan.

Rupa: Saci devi, you really must discipline your child! He broke my Mother's butter pot again this week!

1st Devotee: See? Just like Gopal!

Sacimata: Perhaps it was someone else.

Rupa: No, it was Nimai. I saw Him running behind our house.

Sacimata: I know He's mischievous and I have spoken to Him. I don't know why He does the things He does, truly I don't.

Rupa: He should be punished.

1st Devotee: He needs to be taught a lesson.
(Another devotee enters.)
Syama! I didn't expect you until later. Why are you dressed so funny? Whose clothes do you have on?

Syama: I don't know.

1st Devotee: You don't know whose clothes you're wearing?

Syama: Honestly, I don't. I just came back from bathing. Nimai switched all the clothes. We had to put on whatever we could find. When we chastised Him He said that we had better be careful or He would curse us to have old husbands with four co-wives.

2nd Devotee: Oh, Saci devi, can Nimai really do that!?

3rd Devotee: Four co-wives? Oh no!

1st Devotee: He really has outdone Himself today.

Rupa: Well, Saci Mata, what are you going to do?

1st Devotee: Mark my words, He'll become a dacoit of some kind if you're not careful!

Rupa: Some of the Brahmanas are really mad; my Pita said so.
I heard that they are coming over to talk to Jagannath Misra this every day.

Sacimata: You are right. Nimai must be taught a good lesson.
I've been patient until now, but I see that He must be severely punished.

1st Devotee: What will you do to Him?

2nd Devotee: You won't punish Him too hard will you?

3rd Devotee: After all, He's just mischievous.

Sacimata: Yes, that's true. He would never really hurt anybody.

Syama: It was really funny when no could find their clothes! Keshava Pandit had to wrap a pink sari around himself! He looked so humorous!!

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Look, there is Keshava Pandit running by now!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs by. He looks very embarrassed.)

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Have you ever noticed how Nimai's eyes dance when He's being naughty?

All: Oh, yes!

3rd Devotee: His smile is like sweet nectar!

All: Yes! Just like nectar!

2nd Devotee: You won't be too hard on Him, will you, Saci devi? I mean, boys will be boys.

3rd Devotee: Yes, don't be too hard on Him.

Rupa: Look, there's Nimai! He's coming down the road!

2nd Devotee: Just see his innocent face! He couldn't possibly have done anything wrong!

Rupa: Let's go out and see Him!

2nd Devotee: I thought you had to go back and help your Mata.

Rupa: I will, I will!

2nd Devotee: You just came here to see Nimai!

Rupa: So did you!

2nd Devotee: I never said I didn't.
(Nimai enters their company.)

Rupa: Nimai, I brought you some mangoes!

Syama: I've brought you some sweets. They have coconut in them; I just made them for you today!
(Nimai, Rupa and Syama move away from the others.)

2nd Devotee: How my heart beats every time I see Nimai's face!

3rd Devotee: I thought it was just mine that did that!

2nd Devotee: Who is this boy who has captivated our minds so?

3rd Devotee: He's such a rascal, but at every moment that I don't see Him, it feels like it's been a lifetime!

1st Devotee: How fortunate we are that Mother Saci's beautiful golden Child graces our village with His pastimes!

2nd Devotee: Look, there goes Keshava Pandit again!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs through again, looking embarrassed. Everyone laughs. Bhajan.)

Nimai at the Garbage Dump

Scene One – The Refuse Pile

Narrator: From morning 'til night, Nimai would play and cause mischief. Day after day, He made trouble but Jagannath Misra would not chastise Him. Then, one day, Nimai climbed upon a huge pile of discarded pots and told the boys to call His Mother to the spot ...

Boys: (calling) Mother Saci! Mother Saci!
(they exit, in a moment Mother Saci runs on)

Saci: Nimai! What are You doing sitting there? Get down! Don't You know that is not a proper place to sit?

Nimai: Mother, since you have not sent Me to school, I've forgotten what is right and what is wrong.

Saci: Your clothes have become dirty. Get down quickly!

Nimai: Without an education, I am unable to realize the difference between clean and dirty.

Saci: Please don't joke with me. These pots are contaminated and You're sitting in an impure place. Climb down immediately!

Nimai: This place where I sit is impure? Even if it is impure, wherever I sit becomes pure. All the Holy Places and the Ganges River reside wherever I am.

Saci: Why are You speaking like this? Please get down.

1st Neighbor: What is happening? Nimai, what is the matter?

Nimai: My Mother and Father will not allow me to study, therefore I am sitting here and I will not get down.

2nd Neighbor: (to Saci) Why do you forbid Nimai to go to school.

Saci: It is the will of His father.

2nd Neighbor: You cannot allow Nimai to grow up a fool. Come Child, get down and we shall speak to Your father.
(Nimai climbs down, all exit, music)

Scene Two - At Jagannath Misra's Ashram

2nd Neighbor: Dear friend, please don't forbid Nimai to study. Whatever Lord Krsna desires will come true. We cannot control destiny with our meager plans. Discard your fears, and do what is right.

1st Neighbor: You are very fortunate that your son desires to learn. Choose an

auspicious day and have Nimai initiated with the sacred thread. Let the Boy again study.

Jagannath Misra: You are my dearest friends and my elders. If all of you insist, I will agree.

3rd Neighbor: Your child is not an ordinary boy. Keep Him close to your heart with great care.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, I will. Thank you for coming. Hare Krsna!
(They all exit.)

Narrator: Thus Nimai, the Supreme Lord of Vaikuntha, enjoyed His own transcendental pastimes and, with His father's permission, He joyfully returned to His studies. Soon He was known as Nimai Pandit, a teacher of grammar who used the scriptures brilliantly in His lessons.

Saci: My lord, I do not understand, what more will the future bring? Visvarupa has long since left us for the life of a renunciate and now my hopes of always having Nimai close by are dwindling. What's more - day and night, from nowhere seemingly, I still hear hymns and mantras in the air!

Misra: I also fail to grasp these happenings. Nimai is so restless and, on certain days when I take Him to task, heavenly personalities appear to me at night to dissuade me from chastising Nimaifurther. They say, "Your son, Nimai, is the One who will finally dissipate the despondency of this world. He has incarnated amongst humans to spread the Holy Names of the Lord in every home in every town."
  My heart trembles when I think about the future - will Nimai, like Visvarupa, also leave Navadvip to become a wandering holy man? These are difficult times, but this thought increases my anxiety.

Scene Eighteen - The Astrologer's Visit

Astrologer: (examining Mother Saci's hand) You are very fortunate, Mother Saci, I have never seen such wonderful omen on the person of any lady!

Saci: Sir, how do you call me blessed? I have miscarried eight daughters. Next, my son, Visvarupa, became a wandering mendicant; only God knows where he is now. Now, my youngest child madly roams about, declaring that He is Visnu. Sir, if you could conjure up some means to steady this boy's mind, then I shall sell myself to your feet. (Nimai runs in) Father, see Him now! Looking like a madman, He has <u>burst</u> into the house, considering no one!

Astrologer: Is this your son? Let's see, (to Nimai) where is Your right hand? Mother, you were calling the boy mad, but with the birth of this son, Your forefathers, as well as the entire universe is purified.

Nimai: Oh, A priest! Let me see what you have in your bundle!

Saci: Shame! My dear, must you be so naughty? Offer your respects to the learned astrologer!

Nimai: Dear sir, if you are actually an astrologer, let Me hear you tell Me what I was in my previous birth.

Saci: Just hear His insane ravings, sir!

Astrologer: No, Mother, these are not insane murmurings, for I have already thoroughly researched your son's astrological chart! (to Nimai) In Your previous birth, Nimai, You were a cowherd boy.

Nimai: What piety gave Me a brahmana birth?

Astrologer: My Lord, only by Your mercy have I been able to recognize You and it is by Your grace that my learning has not gone to waste! You are far beyond the realm of sin and piety, You have appeared by Your own sweet will!

Nimai: Well then, I am going to snatch away your bag; you could not correctly answer Me!
(Nimai takes the Astrologer's bag away.)

Saci: You woeful imp! You don't have respect for even a worshipable priest?!
(Nimai returns the bag.)

Nimai: Because you are scolding Me, I will go and contaminate Myself by sitting upon the dirty pots!
(Nimai starts to leave.)

Saci: What are You doing? Heavens Above! Wait! If You do that then I will not give You anything to eat today!

Nimai: Is that so? No food today? I will certainly sit on the deity altar!
(Nimai takes the deity of Lord Visnu off the altar and sits there.)

Song:
Sing Haribol, swing, swing, swing
Sri Radha Krsna swing
Shyam swings with Radha, on His left a blue sapphire
And flashing molten gold. Beauty is unable to control itself and hold.
The gopi damsels paint Vrndavana in many-shaded hues
Throwing colored powder to their friends.
Rosy-red Radhe, bluish-tinted Madan Mohan
Oh what a joyous tumult, clapping their hands in glee
Hoist the flag of the Lord's Holy Name and sing "Hari!" in harmony.
Sari and Sukha, the parrots, have joined with a very merry sound
The bumblebee buzzes, flying to the blossoming lotus pond.
See how the peacocks prance, plumes nicely arranged
The flower buds peep and sway
Jubilant Yamuna melts, her water gushing away
The sky is filled with the sound of "Haribol!"

Swing sing Haribol
Swing, swing, swing
It is time for spring
The festival of colors has come

Radha's and Krsna's festival has come.

Scene Six - Later

(Jagannath Misra enters)

Saci: Just see the disaster! Your son has become contaminated by touching the dirty pots and then sat Himself there on the altar of the Supreme Lord Visnu. My household will surely be finished! Oh Nimai, what have You done by acting in such a preposterous way!?

Misra: Very well. Nimai, I will have to punish You.
(Nimai runs away. Gangadasa Pandit enters.)

Gangadasa: Dear Misra, where are you stalking off to so angrily? I saw Nimai in flight; are you going to punish Him?

Misra: My dear gentleman, it seems that my son has turned out to be an atheist! He sat on the Lord's altar!

Gangadasa: This is not unusual. As an educated parent, you protest, as it is not a polite behavior. Intelligence is judged often by the degree restlessness or agility of the mind. This later converts to profundity by the weight of proper learning. Nimai possesses an exceptional intellect - what more can I say? You should sit with Him to hear Him read one day; you will find this out for yourself.
You keep Him locked up like a cretin because you are afraid that He will learn renunciation. You do not act like His well-wisher, but more like His enemy. You are wrong to wait until He comes of age, for age without education is a burden. Give your son to me, I shall look after Him and return to you a learned scholar!

Misra: I shall soon accept your advice, sir, but first let Nimai receive His upavita, the sacred thread. Then, later, I will follow your instructions. Excuse me, I must go and find out where that mischief-maker has gone.

Gangadasa: Control yourself, sir Misra! Do not frighten your son; one who possesses a beastly nature is addicted to excessive punishment. Your son is of novel intellect; retribution will drive Him in the wrong direction.
Please introduce me to this brahmana, your guest.

Astrologer: I am Nilambhara Chakravarti, an astrologer.

Gangadasa: Very well! Have you made a proper study of the Vedic scriptures?

Astrologer: I know something from the instructions of my teacher.

Gangadasa: Good, then tell me - who am I?

Astrologer: There is no need to do an astrological calculation in your case; I have already guessed from your speech that you are a teacher. Your fate is very good. You will acquire consummate fame in this world by tutoring this young Nimai.

(to Jagannath Misra) My dear Misra, please consider my submission, do not regard your son as an ordinary boy, seeing Him with a mundane vision. He is the supreme incarnation, appeared as the helmsman to ferry everyone across this ocean of nescience! By the grace of my Spiritual Master, my calculations are never proved wrong.

Nimai and the Astrologer

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Saci: Sir, how do you call me blessed? I have miscarried eight daughters. Next, my son, Visvarupa, became a wandering mendicant; only God knows where he is now. Now, my youngest child madly roams about, declaring that He is Visnu. Sir, if you could conjure up some means to steady this boy's mind, then I shall sell myself to your feet. (Nimai runs in) Father, see Him now! Looking like a madman, He has burst into the house, considering no one!

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Radha's and Krsna's festival has come.

Scene Six - Later

(Jagannath Misra enters)

Saci: Just see the disaster! Your son has become contaminated by touching the dirty pots and then sat Himself there on the altar of the Supreme Lord Visnu. My household will surely be finished! Oh Nimai, what have You done by acting in such a preposterous way!?

Misra: Very well. Nimai, I will have to punish You.
(Nimai runs away. Gangadasa Pandit enters.)

Gangadasa: Dear Misra, where are you stalking off to so angrily? I saw Nimai in flight; are you going to punish Him?

Misra: My dear gentleman, it seems that my son has turned out to be an atheist! He sat on the Lord's altar!

Gangadasa: This is not unusual. As an educated parent, you protest, as it is not a polite behavior. Intelligence is judged often by the degree restlessness or agility of the mind. This later converts to profundity by the weight of proper learning. Nimai possesses an exceptional intellect - what more can I say? You should sit with Him to hear Him read one day; you will find this out for yourself.
You keep Him locked up like a cretin because you are afraid that He will learn renunciation. You do not act like His well-wisher, but more like His enemy. You are wrong to wait until He comes of age, for age without education is a burden. Give your son to me, I shall look after Him and return to you a learned scholar!

Misra: I shall soon accept your advice, sir, but first let Nimai receive His upavita, the sacred thread. Then, later, I will follow your instructions. Excuse me, I must go and find out where that mischief-maker has gone.

Gangadasa: Control yourself, sir Misra! Do not frighten your son; one who possesses a beastly nature is addicted to excessive punishment. Your son is of novel intellect; retribution will drive Him in the wrong direction.
Please introduce me to this brahmana, your guest.

Astrologer: I am Nilambhara Chakravarti, an astrologer.

Gangadasa: Very well! Have you made a proper study of the Vedic scriptures?

Astrologer: I know something from the instructions of my teacher.

Gangadasa: Good, then tell me - who am I?

Astrologer: There is no need to do an astrological calculation in your case; I have already guessed from your speech that you are a teacher. Your fate is very good. You will acquire consummate fame in this world by tutoring this young Nimai.
(to Jagannath Misra) My dear Misra, please consider my submission, do not regard your son as an ordinary boy, seeing Him with a mundane vision. He is the supreme incarnation, appeared as the helmsman to ferry everyone across this ocean of nescience! By the grace of my Spiritual Master, my calculations are never proved wrong.

Nimai Pandit's Wedding to Laksmi

Scene One - The courtyard of Mata Saci's house

(Nimai is sitting studying, and Mata Saci is sewing, or doing household duties. Mata Saci watches Nimai and then walks to center stage, where she thinks out loud, unheard by Nimai)

Saci:(to the audience) My Nimai is such a great scholar. All the residents of Navadvipa respect Him so. He is now in His full youth, and soon He will be a young man. I wonder if I should think about a suitable wife for Him. I know of the daughter of Vallabhacharya she is very beautiful and devoted to Lord Krishna. But, maybe Nimai isn't ready yet. He is always studying and teaching His students. Vishvarupa, His elder brother, went away and took sannyasa when he found out that his father was planning his marriage. And his father has recently left this world. Maybe I should wait. I don't think this would be a good time to bring it up. (Mata Saci goes off stage. Nimai puts his books away and gets up to go. As He walks off stage, Lakshmi Priya passes Him, carrying a water pot. As soon as she sees Him, she offers her obeisances. Then, realizing what she did, she covers her face shyly with her cloth and leaves. Nimai smiles and watches her go)

Nimai:(speaking to the audience) I did not take sannyasa, and since I am remaining at home it is My duty to act as a householder. Without a wife there is no meaning to householder life. Merely a house is not a home, for it is a wife that gives the home meaning. If one lives at home with a wife, together they can fulfill all the interests of human life. (Nimai leaves the stage)

Narrator:The same day, Vanamali, the village marriage-maker, happens to come to the house of Saci Mata. He offers her his respects, and with great affection she gives him a place to sit down. (actors do this as Narrator is talking. Mata Saci brings a straw mat and some water. Then she sits down, too)

Vanamali:Saci Mata, why are you not thinking about the marriage of your son. Vallabhacharya is living here in Navadvipa. In his house they are very strict, pure vegetarians. They are very pure brahmanas. There is no defect in their family or behavior. Vallabhacharya has a very beautiful and chaste daughter; she is almost like Lakshmi, the Goddess of Fortune. What about trying to make an engagement with Vallabhacharya's family for your son to marry his daughter, Lakshmi Priya? If you think this is a good match, then I can make the arrangements immediately.

Saci:My dear brahmana. I already know of this girl. She is very beautiful and devoted to Lord Krishna. I was also thinking that she would be a suitable daughter-in-law. But I'm not sure that this is the best time for my Nimai to marry. He has recently lost His father. Also, He is so much involved with His studies and His school, and He is still so young. I think that He should first grow a little older. There is plenty of time later for these things. I don't think Nimai should marry just now.

Vanamali:(looking very disappointed) Nimai is a very handsome young man. It is time that He is married. What does He think of this? Have you discussed it with Him?

Saci:Well, no, I haven't. But, He is still too young. I will discuss it with Him some time later.

Vanamali:(getting up to leave, Mata Saci stands, too) But, you have no objection to the girl or her family?

Saci:Oh, no! She is a very nice girl; I was already thinking of her as a suitable wife for Nimai.

Vanamali:But not now?

Saci:No, not now.

Vanamali:I can't tell you how disappointed I am with your decision. Please reconsider this, and I will come back again to see you. (Vanamali turns and Mata Saci leaves the stage. He is very saddened by the words of Mata Saci. As he is walking to the other side of the stage, Nimai enters. Vanamali embraces Nimai)

Nimai:Please tell me, my dear brahmana, where have you been? Who's house were you visiting?

Vanamali:I went to see your mother. We were talking about your marriage.

Nimai:What did she say?

Vanamali:She would not listen to my words. She did not want to discuss your marrIage. I don't know why she wouldn't listen to my words. (when Nimai hears this, He is silent for a minute, thinking)

Nimai:I must go now, My students will be here soon.

Vanamali:Yes, I have matters to attend to also, Namaste.

Nimai:Hare Krishna! (Vanamali leaves, and Mata Saci enters from the other side. Nimai goes to her smiling) Mata, why didn't you listen to Vanamali? I just met him on the road. You should receive a brahmana with favorable words when he comes to visit, and listen to what he says.

Saci:You think that I should be more favorable to what a brahmana says?

Nimai:Yes, Vanamali is very intelligent. You should be very kind to him. I have to go now. My students will be here soon. (Nimai leaves)

Saci:Ishana! (her servant comes in) Go and tell Vanamali to come to see me tomorrow. (Ishana leaves, Mata Saci leaves)

Narrator:The next day when Vanamali returns, Mata Saci has news more to his liking. She tells him to arrange the marriage without delay. He is very happy with this news and, taking the dust of her feet, he proceeds to the house of Vallabhacharya.

Scene Two - Vallabhacharya's house

(Vallabhacharya along with his wife and Lakshmi Priya are worshiping the family Deity. When they are done, Vanamali enters. He is brought a seat and something to drink by Lakshmi Priya and her mother, and then they leave the stage. Vallabhacharya sits down next to Vanamali)

Vallabha:My dear brahmana, please accept our obeisances. Please tell me how I can be of service to you. If there is anything that you need, I will do my best to get it for you. You are a great devotee of Lord Krishna, and by serving the devotees one can get the mercy of the Lord.

Vanamali:My dear Vallabhacharya, I just want you to listen to my words with great care and attention. This will bring great benefit to you and your family. You should immediately, on the most auspicious moment, arrange for the marriage of your daughter without delay. The son of Jagannath Mishra, whose name is Vishvambhar, and who is the greatest pandit and the ocean of all good qualities, is the suitable person for your daughter, Lakshmi Priya. I am presenting this to you, and you should give full consideration. If you think it appropriate, then you should accept this arrangement without delay.

Vallabha:Your words bring great joy to my heart. Who could get a better husband for his daughter. I must be very fortunate Krishna is very merciful upon me. Only if Lakshmi Devi herself is satisfied with my daughter is it possible for her to be married to such a bridegroom. I very happily accept your suggestion; please do the needful immediately. But, I have one problem that I am very shy to talk about: I am actually very poor I don't have anything that I can give except my daughter. As a dowry I can only give five pieces of spice. This is my offering you can agree whether it is acceptable or not.

Vanamali:(very happy) Vallabhacharya, your words are so pleasing for me to hear. Please do not worry about anything. I am sure that everything can be successfully arranged. Now I must go inform Saci Mata and make the arrangements.
(wedding dance)

The Greatest Treasure

from "Sri Gaura Lila"
The Pastimes and Precepts of the Golden Avatar
by His Holiness Varsana Swami
adapted by Radha Damodar dasa

Act One

Scene One - The Madhavan Forest

Narrator: Within the Navadvip forest, an old merchant named Kolavecha Sridhara lived in all simplicity. Kolavecha Sridhara was so poor he lived in a hut that had more holes than thatch on the roof. An old iron pot sat just outside the door of his hut. Kolavecha Sridhara kept the water in this pot for such menial purposes as washing his feet.

He sold plates and cups made of banana leaves in the city marketplace. Navadvip is in Bengal, an area so fertile it is called the "garden of India." Banana trees grow everywhere there, so selling their leaves was not a very lucrative business. Kolavecha Sridhara made only a few cents every day. He was as honest as Yudhisthira Maharaj; he always quoted the correct price for his commodities and never cheated. People who knew him always bought at the prices he quoted. For Kolavecha Sridhara, the only purpose of his business was to use half of the few cents he made each day for the worship of the sacred River Ganges.
(Neighbors make fun of him and throw bananas, etc at him.)

Neighbor: Hey, holy man! Is your God as poor as you are? Look at you, you're like a starving dog! You can barely even cover yourself with your cloth!
(Kolavecha Sridhara chants loudly, undisturbed.)

2nd Neighbor: Be quiet, will ya!? You chant and you chant both day and night; we can't sleep anymore!! (throws food at Kolavecha Sridhara) Here, eat something you poor bum! Stop yelling and crying from your hunger pains!!

Nimai: Kolavecha Sridhara returned home from the market place every afternoon in a state of expectation, waiting for a special customer. This Person also harassed him to no end, yet Kolavecha Sridhara loved Him, inspite of the abuse.
(Nimai Pandit and two friends enter. They jokingly run about Kolavecha Sridhara's hut, stealing bananas and flowers. They laugh as Kolavecha Sridhara, acting as if he is angry, chases them off. Then they quietly sneak back to the and, his friends laughing, Nimai Pandit joked with Kolavecha Sridhara.)

Nimai: (loudly) My dear Kolavecha Sridhara, you chant the Holy Names of Krsna, so why do you suffer from this poverty? Tell me, how is it that you experience a want of food when you are a worshipper of the Goddess of Fortune and her Lord? Is it any wonder that your neighbors laugh at you?

Kolavecha: (humbly) No no, I am all right; I do not actually starve. The Lord provides me with just enough. He is so kind.

Nimai: I notice your cloth is patched in twelve places. Also, there is nothing but holes in the roof of your hut. Look at your neighbors, Kolavecha Sridhara - they are worshiping Mother Durga and receiving so much opulence and comfort. They wear fine cloth and eat whatever they desire.

Kolavecha: You speak very well, learned Professor, but I also eat whatever I desire. The king

lives in his palace of gems, eating and dressing most richly. The birds who inhabit the treetops easily find the type of food that they want. The time of both passes away in the same way - they enjoy the fruits of their karma by the will of Sri Iswara, Who controls all movements in this world. Kolavecha Sridhara eats bananas but he meditates upon the future when he will feast in the eternal Spiritual Abode, in the presence of his beloved Lord, Sri Krsna.

Nimai: So, you are also a great pandit! (laughing) How much are these banana flowers?

Kolavecha: They are ten small conch shells per bunch.

Nimai: What!? So much?! Why are you cheating poor brahmanas?
I will give you no more than half of what you say they cost.
(Nimai starts to walk away with the banana flowers without paying.)

Kolavecha: (running after Nimai, feeling great anxiety) Wait! I'm not cheating; that is the standard price - ask anyone! Pandit, if You steal from me everyday, how will I be able to worship Mother Ganges? Do not take these small flowers in this way!
(He pulls the flowers out of Nimai's hands.)

Nimai: (grabbing them back) No, Kolavecha Sridhara! You claim to be so renounced, but now you steal from a brahmana! You must be mad! I am surprised that you do not know Who I am!

Kolavecha: (stares for a long time in awe of Nimai's beauty) I am simply a dog, my dear sir!

Nimai: I know you are a dog, and a very cunning dog, too! (smiling) Do you know that I am the source of your Goddess Ganga? Therefore, Kolavecha Sridhara, you should simply worship Me, giving everything to Me.

Kolavecha: What!? (shouting, covering his ears) Vishnu! Vishnu! Vishnu! You are so arrogant, NO! Aren't you afraid of offending Mother Ganges!?

Nimai: No, but (returning flowers to the exhausted merchant) you may keep these; I don't want them.

Kolavecha: Why do you harass me so much? Why do you pick on me? You don't harass anyone else like this!

Nimai: I seek you out because you possess the greatest treasure.

Kolavecha: (shaking his head in disbelief) What do You mean? I am so poor ? my house doesn't even have a roof on it!

Nimai: No, this is just a front. You wear this torn cloth and you appear to be very poor, but I know that you have a great treasure in this house. (Nimai starts to enter Kolavecha Sridhara's house.)

Kolavecha: What are You doing!? You cannot ?

Nimai: I know you have a great treasure here. I will leave you alone today, but later I will exploit your treasure and expose you to everyone!

Kolavecha: What are You saying! What do I have? I don't even have proper clothes to wear to greet You or a decent seat to offer You. What wealth do I have?

Nimai: Not only do you have great wealth, but you dine on it, sumptuously, and in secret. One day, I will reveal your secret to the world and everyone will see how you have deceived them!

Kolavecha: (distressed) Please, sir, return home now. Let us not quarrel anymore; it is not proper.

Nimai: Do you think that you can get off so easily? Tell Me at once what you will give me today to persuade me to keep my secret!

Kolavecha: But, Pandit, I live by selling banana leaves! What can I offer You!?

Nimai: For now, give Me this gourd that grows on the vine clinging to your hut. I won't trouble you anymore if you give Me this offering.

Kolavecha: (aside) This Brahmana is certainly very arrogant; yet I cannot refuse Him! He may even hurt me if I do not give Him what He demands.
It is actually my good fortune that He comes here to me - otherwise I would think that I had nothing to offer to the brahmanas. What a brahmana takes, even by force, I see as my good fortune! He is not really disturbing me - rather, I am longing more and more in my heart to have some suitable offering for Him.
Actually, He is simply fulfilling my heart's desire to sacrifice all that I have to Sri Vishnu, for whatever is offered to a brahmana automatically goes to the Lord. Otherwise, I might use my poverty as an excuse not to offer what I do have.
(to Nimai) Listen, my dear Pandit, You need not pay anything. I shall willingly give You the gourd. So, be pleased not to quarrel with me anymore.

Nimai: (smiling) This is very good. I will not quarrel any more with you as long as you give me <u>good</u> gourds from this vine!

Narrator: Everday, Nimai Pandit ate from the banana leaves that Kolavecha Sridhara gave Him, and the gourds, which Mother Saci cooked in milk and pepper, were the most relishable part of His meal. The Lord loves the offerings of His devotees. He never accepts anything from non-devotees.
Kolavecha Sridhara gladly gave the Brahmana these commodities, hoping the arrogant Professor would be on His way, but Nimai would return and have more fun.

Nimai: So, Kolavecha Sridhara, Who do you think I am? I shall go home as soon as you tell Me this.

Kolavecha: (humbly) You are a brahmana, part and parcel of Sri Vishnu.

Nimai: No, I am just a cowherd boy!

Kolavecha: What!? What are you saying!?
(Both laugh and exit.)

Act Two - The Maha Prakash Festival

Scene One

(Blissful kirtan is performed by Nimai Pandit and devotees during narration.)

Narrator: The devotees endured the atrocities and harassment of many powerful demons. The Nawab Hussein Shah who arrested Srila Haridasa Thakur was an incarnation of Jarasandha and his local magistrate in the district of Nadia, Chand Kazi was the incarnation of Kamsa. His city chieftains, Jagai and Madhai, incarnations of Hiranyakasipu and Hiranyaksa, committed abominable acts simply for their own entertainment. Defeating these demons increased the fame of Nimai Pandit and made His Hari Nama Sankirtan Movement appear more and ore glorious and attractive to all people everywhere.

At the Maha Prakash festival Nimai Pandit beautifully revealed Himself as the Supreme Personality of Godhead to His pure devotees. He showed each devotee that Form of Godhead that the devotee most loved and gave benediction to them.

Nimai: O Advaita Acarya, what benediction would You like Me to bestow upon You?

Advaita: O Lord, when You distribute this mercy, You give it to everyone. You give it to women, sudras, the poor and the unfortunate living entities. Without discrimination, You distribute it, and make all living entities cry in the ecstasy of pure love of God and roll in the dust of the ground.
(Kirtan resumes. After a few minutes, Nimai Pandit stops the kirtan and calls for Sridhar Kolevecha to be brought there.)

Nimai: Go and bring Kolavecha Sridhara immediately! Let him see My transcendental opulence. He is constantly thinking of Me in great separation. I want to see him right away. Go to the outsh=kirts of the town and listen to him chanting My name. When you find Kolavecha Sridhara, bring him to Me.

Scene Two

(Several devotees come upon Kolavecha Sridhara as he chants the Mahamantra.)

Devotee: Kolavecha Sridhara! Come, come quickly. The Lord wants you!

Kolavecha: The Lord wants me?
(Kolavecha Sridhara faints and is carried before Nimai Pandit. A soft kirtan is going on.)

Nimai: Get up, Kolavecha Sridhara! Come to Me!
(Kolavecha Sridhara awakens and appears amazed to se the opulence and beauty of Nimai Pandit.)
Come, Kolavecha Sridhara; for so long You have worshipped Me. Many lifetimes you have spent in My devotional service. Even in this life, I have tasted your offerings countless times when I took different commodities from your hands.
(Kolavecha Sridhara offers obeisances.)
O Kolavecha Sridhara, behold My beauty. Today, I will bestow upon you the eight mystic perfections.
(Kolavecha Sridhara looks up and beholds with wonder that Nimai is Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Nimai stands as Krsna stands and pretends to hold a flute. Kolavecha Sridhara looks about the room and back to Nimai in great ecstasy and for a long time, then faints again.)
Kolavecha Sridhara! (reviving him) I want to hear your prayers!

Kolavecha: Dear Lord, I am illiterate and unintelligent - what powers do I possess to glorify You!?

Nimai: That is all right, even your ordinary talks are more pleasing to Me than the prayers of

all the demigods.

Kolavecha: Jaya Sri Krsna Caitanya! All glory to Lord Visvambhara, the Lord of Navadvipa! All glory to the Lord of the entire cosmic manifestation! All glory to the Son of Mother Saci!
You appear in every millenium to uphold religious principles in Your different wonderful forms! Secretly, You have been wandering around Navadvip, managing and maintaining everything. Your real identity has been unknown to everyone because it is impossible for anyone to know You without Your mercy.
O Lord, You told me earlier that Mother Ganges, whom I worship, has emanated from Your lotus feet and yet, due to my sinful heart, I could not understand Your supreme position. Now I see that You are the same Personality of Godhead Who previously blessed Gokula Vrndavan with Your presence and now You have again appeared as the sweet Lord of Navadvip!

Nimai: My dear Kolavecha Sridhara, I desire to give you some benediction today. What do you want!?

Kolavecha: I don't want anything! Simply by seeing You, all my desires are fulfilled.

Nimai: No, Kolavecha Sridhara, you must ask for some benediction.

Kolavecha: No, my Lord, I have already received all that I have ever wanted.

Nimai: No! One benediction! You must! I can give you the eight-fold mystic perfections - immediately, I can give them to you!

Kolavecha: (quietly) No, no - I don't want that.

Nimai: I can give you wealth, opulence. I can make you the king of many maharajas. I can give you faithful followers, a kingdom, opulence beyond your wildest imaginings.

Kolavecha: No, I don't want any of hose things.

Nimai: Well, what do you want?

Kolavecha: (humbly) I just want to make banana-leaf cups and banana-leaf plates for your devotees. I simply, humbly, request that wherever I take my birth, You continue to come see me every day in that form of the beautiful, arrogant, mischievous, brahmana Pandit of Navadvipa and harass me and steal from me! I am simply desiring this, birth after birth! This is all I want and nothing else.

Nimai: Granted.
(Kirtan increases in volume.)

Act Three

Narrator: After converting Chand Kazi, Nimai Pandit suddenly realized that, after all this chanting and dancing, He was very thirsty. He knew that He was near the hut of Kolavecha Sridhara so He went there. Before Kolavecha Sridhara came out of his hut, Nimai Pandit saw the broken iron pot holding Kolavecha Sridhara's water and He drank all the water from it. Those who are fortunate can drink the water which comes from the Lord's Feet as the Ganges but what is The Supreme personality of Godhead doing? He is drinking the water that washes the feet of His devotees!

Kolavecha: (seeing Nimai Pandit) Aiiee! Now I am finished! Ohhhhh! Now I am destroyed! The Supreme Lord has drunk the water from my wretched iron pot!

Nimai: My dear Kolavecha Sridhara, whenever and wherever you take birth, I will have to come to you every day to enjoy pastimes with you because I am conquered by your love. I am your servant, birth after birth.

Nimai: Nimai Pandit thus revealed the secret wealth in Kolavecha Sridhara's possession - the hidden treasure in which the Lord had taken such delight. That treasure was not anything material, but simply Kolavecha Sridhara's pure, humble love. For the Lord, that exalted love is embodied in the water that washed the feet of His devotee. In this way, He revealed the ultimate treasure in this world - the gift of unconditional devotional service, which flows from the feet of His pure devotees.

The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Two - Nimai Pandit as a Youth

Nimai Pandit Defeats Keshava Kasmiri - The Most Secret of all Secrets
from "Sri Gaura Lila"
The Pastimes and Precepts of the Golden Avatar
by His Holiness Varsana Swami
adapted by Radha Damodar dasa

Narrator: Nimai Pandit sat in the midst of His students and followers in the posture of a seated warrior. His left leg was crossed beneath Him, with His right foot touching the ground. He leaned back onto His left hand, which was resting by His hip. The image of perfect ease and poised energy, He seemed ready to receive any challenger and turn him away in thorough defeat. Passersby unthinkingly gasped for breath upon catching sight of the beautiful youth surrounded by a crowd of attentive students. Nimai Pandit's face was constantly welcoming to all, being decorated with His gracious smile and beautiful eyes.

In a clear, melodious voice, sixteen year old Nimai Pandit expounded on the profound Vedic scriptures, moving with astonishing ability from one interpretation, to refuting it, to establishing another interpretation without touching upon the first.

At the same time that Nimai was becoming established in Sri Navadvip Dhama as the most outstanding Pandit ever to debate there, a great scholar named Keshava Kasmiri was travelling all over India defeating everyone who challenged him. The possible meeting of these two famed pandits created a great deal of excitement in Navadvip.

Keshava Kasmiri's fame as a great scholar and debater was undisputed. Everyone who tried to debate with him suffered defeat. He had even assumed the proud title of Digvijayi, which meant "The Conqueror of All Directions." This not only proclaimed his undisputed victory over every pandit he had ever met, but served as an open challenge as well.

Along with the pompous title went the custom of receiving signed declarations of defeat from each would-be opponent. The Digvijayi did not even have to voice his call-to-arms, "Submit yourself or meet with me in open debate!" for pandits all over the nation knew his prowess. Even so, the Digvijayi knew no satisfaction because he aspired to have the world's greatest scholars bow before him.

He decided to go to Navadvipa, India's center of learning, in order to find a worthy opponent who would increase the magnitude of his reputation.

Student: O Your Grace. a certain pandit who calls himself a Conqueror of All Directions is coming this way! He is said to have won the favor of Goddess Saraswati and has been vanquishing pandits all over the land.

2nd Student: He has hundreds of signed declarations of defeat from the greatest intellectual champions in the world! Now, he says that he wants to debate anyone who dares meet his challenge. And, if no one will meet him, he demands that we give him written confessions of our defeat! What shall we do?

Nimai: (nonchalantly looking into the distance, laughing softly) What is the problem? Have you not seen that whatever intoxicates a person to indulge in vanity, the Lord always takes away? Humility is the constant companion of a person endowed with all god qualities. Have you not heard of the fate of all the mighty conquerors of old? Has there ever been any person whose egotism was not brought down? The Supreme Lord never tolerates conceit. For this reason, I assure you that this "Conqueror of All Directions" will be completely humbled at this very place.
(The students are delighted.)

Student: If a mere youngster of Navadvipa defeats the conqueror of all the other intellectual empires of the world, then not only would our prestige be preserved, but it will increase!
(The two pandits and their followers proceed towards each other, stopping in the middle but keeping their distance.)

Keshava Kasmiri: (to his student) Is this perhaps Nimai Pandit? He is so young Y so beautiful Y so graceful and confident!

Keshava Kasmiri: (to Nimai Pandit's student) Sir, I am Keshava Kasmiri, the Digvijayi. What is the name of your Teacher?

Student: He is, indeed, the great Nimai Pandit Himself!

Nimai: Great Pandit, you are welcome here. Please sit comfortably with us and we will have a friendly debate for some time. I have heard everything of your views and reputation but I can never agree with it.
(They all sit down.)

Keshava Kasmiri: I understand that You are a teacher of Vyakarana, Sanskrit grammar, and that Your name is Nimai Pandit. People speak very highly of of Your teaching of beginner's grammar.

Nimai: Yes, I am known as a teacher of grammar, but factually, I cannot impress my students with grammatical knowledge, nor do they understand Me very well.

Keshava Kasmiri: (puffed up) Really? Well, what subject do You wish to debate upon?

Nimai: My dear Sir, whereas you are a learned scholar in all sorts of scriptures and very experienced in composing poetry, I am only a boy, a mere student and nothing more!
Further, My students and I would surely all be delivered from all sinful reactions if you would favor us with a poetic account of the glories of Mother Ganges!

Narrator: Hearing these words, Keshava Kasmiri stood up, looked about on all sides and, smiling proudly, began to praise the Ganges in one hundred verses which he composed on the spot. These Sanskrit verses were so lilting and contained such varied figures, that his recitation appeared to possess the amplitude and dignity of a voice from the clouds. Sarasvai herself was present on his tongue and therefore whatever he said was perfect in every wa.

No human being possessed the power to compose such verses or even comprehend the full depth of meaning of his spontaneous composition.
(Students from both sides cheer, clap and shout in great appreciation.)

Students: Rama! Rama! Sadhu! Keshava Kasmiri ki jaya!

1st Student: It is most wonderful!
2nd Student: How can such words come from any mortal!?

Narrator: The Digvijayi's description was virtuously laden with all conceivable rhetoric embellishments. Even scholars deeply versed in all branches of the shastra found it extremely difficult to keep up with the complex meaning of the quickly recited poetry.

All agreed that the verses would have to be heard a number of times and carefully studied to be fully appreciated. In this way, Keshava Kasmiri spoke on late into the night.

When the last verse was spoken, Sri Gaura Sundar laughed sarcastically, saying:

Nimai: Your poetry phrasing is so difficult that no one can understand it but you and your Goddess Sarasvati, but if you explain the meaning of even one verse, we can all hear it from your own mouth and thus be enlightened.

Keshava Kasmiri: Certainly, I would be happy to break down the poetic elements for You and explain my method of utilizing them. Which verse should I explain? Did you have a favorite?

Nimai: Yes, the sixty -fourth verse. You said, "The Glory of Mother Ganges is eternal and absolute. She is the most fortunate because she emanated from the lotus feet of Sri Visnu, the Personality of Godhead. She is the second Goddess of Fortune, and therefore she is always worshipped both by demigods and by humanity. Endowed with all wonderful qualities, she flourishes on the head of Lord Siva."

Keshava Kasmiri: (astounded) [gasp] I recited all the verses like the blowing wind! How could You possibly learn by heart even one among those verses?

Nimai: By the grace of the Supreme Lord, someone may become a great poet, and similarly by His grace, someone may become a great sruti-dhara, one who can memorize anything immediately.

Keshava Kasmiri: I am satisfied by this statement, and I will answer You and explain the verse.

Nimai: Kindly explain the special qualities and faults in the verse.

Keshava Kasmiri: There is not a tinge of fault in that verse!! Rather, it has all the good qualities of poetic figures, of simile and alliteration.

Nimai: My dear sir, I may say something to you, if you will not become angry. Would you like me to explain the faults in this verse? There is no doubt that your poetry is full of ingenuity, and certainly it has satisfied the Supreme Lord. Yet, if we scutinizingly consider it, we can find both good qualities

and faults. Now, therefore, let us carefully analyze this verse.

Keshava Kasmiri: (arrogantly) You are correct when You say that this verse is very well composed. But, You are an ordinary teacher of grammar; what do You know about literary embellishments? You cannot review this poetry because You are not qualified.

Nimai: (humbly) Because I am not on your level, I first asked you to teach Me by explaining the faults and qualities in your own composition. I have not studied the art of literary embellishments, but I have heard about it from higher circles, and thus I can review this verse and find in it many faults as wellas some good qualities.

Keshava Kasmiri: (peeved) All right, Panditji, let me see what qualities and faults You have found.

Nimai: Let me speak, and please hear Me without becoming angry. My dear Sir, in this verse, there are five faults and five literary ornaments. I shall state them one after another. Kindly hear Me, and then give your judgement. Actually, if we examine it in fine detail, We will find unlimited faults. But, that's all right Y

Nimai: After hearing Nimai Pandit's scholarly presentation, Keshava Kasmiri was struck with wonder. His arrogance was gone and even though he tried to speak, no sound came out of his mouth.
(to himself) This mere boy has blocked my intelligence! I can therefore understand that Sarasvati, the Goddess of Learning, has become angry with me. This wonderful explanation could not have been possible for any mortal; therefore, Mother Sarasvati must have personally spoken through His mouth!

Nimai: Do not worry. Continue on with your composing and recitation.
(Keshava Kasmiri is flustered by his inability to compose more verses. The student stifle their laughter but Nimai Pandit forbids any misbehavior. He speaks kindly to Keshava Kasmiri.)
You have made an exhausting effort by composing these wonderful verses and you are naturally very fatigued. It is getting late. Our debate should be postponed until tomorrow. Take rest now and don't feel discouraged!

Nimai: Nimai Pandit was always tender with His opponents - strong in principle but soft in character. The Lord behaved in the same way to all the professors in Navadvip. Although He defeated them all, He never broke the spirit of those He vanquished. Thus, everyone was pleased with Him. It was for this reason that every one of those pandits who lived in Navadvip was, in his heart of hearts, well-disposed toward Nimai Pandit.
(The Lord and His disciples leave.)

Keshava Kasmiri: (to himself) Sarasvati herself gave me this blessing of great oratory prowess. I have met in debate all those who are well-versed in the most advanced intellectual systems in the world -nyaya, sankya, atajava, nirmamsa, vaisesika, and vedanta philosophies. I have found no one in the whole world who could even advance a plausible refutation to my views. There was no question of their having the ability to defeat me.
But, such is the contrivance of Provivdence that this brahmana Boy, who is

barely a teacher of the Vyakarana, a subject for infants, should be able to defeat me! The boon of Sarasvati seems to be uncertain. There is good cause for the greatest anxiety in this. I must have committed some offense against the Goddess and, because of this, the power of my genius gas been diminished. I must find out the cause of it this very night!
(His diciples leave. Keshava Kasmiri rests and meditates, then sleeps. Mother Sarasvati comes to him in a dream.)

Sarasvati: Listen, good brahmana, for I am going to reveal to you the hidden secret of all Vedas. If you disclose this to anyone, your life will surely be cut short. You should know that He at Whose hands you suffered defeat is most assuredly the Lord of all the endless universes!

He is, indeed, the self-same Lord Whose Lotus Feet I forever serve. I feel ashamed even to appear before Him, because my function is to delude all creatures into the vanities of the false ego, and therefore, I have no admission into the sphere that is illumined by the glance of Vasudeva. It is I who speaks through your mouth, but I have no power in His presence. Even the thousand-faced Ananta-Sesa is bewildered in the presence of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Whom you have seen Face to Face as a brahmana Boy.

O Brahmana, go quickly to His Lotus Feet and surrender your body, mind and words to Him.
(Keshava Kasmiri wakes up and goes to Nimai Pandit. He offers obeisances and Nimai Pandit helps him up.)

Nimai: Brother, what is the meaning of this behavior?

Keshava Kasmiri: Such is the merciful glance of Thine eyes!

Nimai: Being the undisputed "Conqueror in All Directions," why do you behave in such a humble way to Me?

Keshava Kasmiri: Please listen, O Prince of Brahmanas! You are Narayana in the form of one of the twice-born in the Kali yuga. Who has the power to recognize You? This suspicion grew in my mind as my power of speech deserted me and now it is confirmed. You are declared the "Breaker of all Worldly Vanity" by the scriptures. I have truly experienced this undoubted truth.

You overcame me three times and yet preserved my reputation. Could such a thing be possible except by the power of the Supreme Lord Himself?

Most auspicious indeed was the planetary conjunction under which I set foot in Navadvip. I, so deeply sunk in the world of Maya, have obtained sight of You. I, who have remained entangled in ignorant, selfish desires and have long wandered astray, utterly deceiving myself, by good fortune, have now obtained the sight of You, the Refuge of All. Be pleased, O Great One, so as to instruct me in such a way that there may never again arise any sinful desires in my mind!

Nimai: (smiling) Listen, O illustrious brahmana, on whose tongue Saravati herself abides, you are indeed most fortunate. The use of learning does not lie in conquering all directions. The only genuine scholarship is that which serves the Supreme Lord.

Consider this well and with attention - when a person dies, his wealth, learning and other assets never accompany him to his next birth. Know for certain that the only true fruit of learning is when one's mind and work

abide at the Lotus Feet of Sri Krsna. I declare unto you the highest truth: Devotion to Visnu is the one and only thing that is of value in all these countless worlds.
(Keshava Kasmiri offers obeisances and leaves. Nimai Pandit sits center stage with His disciples.)

Narrator: News of the Lord's victory over Keshava Kasmiri quickly spread to all parts of Nadia. Everyone was overwhelmed with astonishment, and finally admitted that Nimai Pandit was undoubtedly a very great scholar. They confessed that Nimai Pandit had every justification for His pride, and that it was only now that the real greatness of His learning was made known to all.

1st Villager: If He had only read nyaya, He could have easily attained the position of Bhattacarya!

2nd Villager: We should join together and confer upon Nimai Pandit the title of Pradasimha, "the Lion of Controversy!"

Narrator: The citizens of Navadvip deserve our homage simply because they were so privileged as to witness the pastimes of Lord Caitanya as Nimai Pandit, the young intellectual warrior. Because of their love for Nimai Pandit, the people of Navadvip received the Lord's mercy in being allowed to participate in His Lila. It was not His purpose to reveal Himself to everyone at that time, but, when He chooses to extend His mercy, He arranges for His devotee to be situated so that the hard coverings of pride and false ego break apart and leave the devotee free to accept the Lord.

Keshava Kasmiri gave up all his opulence, both of learning and wealth and became a mendicant. Through him, Sri Caitanya showed that surrender to the Absolute Truth alone gives meaning and value to all knowledge.

This is also the path of real freedom and victory as Srimati Radharani Herself states and Sri Caitanya repeats in Her words:

"Even a drop of the ocean of the nectar of devotion is so perfectly satisfying to the soul that one who tastes it forgets all other tastes due to complete absorption in thoughts of Sri Krsna. With heart and soul surrendered to Krsna, such a person wanders as a carefree mendicant, lost in the joy of chanting the glories of his wonderful Lord, Sri Krsna."

(Bhajan)

The Initiation of Lord Caitany in Gaya - The Servant of the Servant

from "Sri Gaura Lila"
The Pastimes and Precepts of the Golden Avatar
by His Holiness Varsana Swami
adapted by Radha Damodar dasa

Narrator: At the height of His career as Nimai Pandit, Sri Caitanya traveled to the holy city of Gaya to perform the funeral rites for His departed father. The King of Knowledge Himself, accompanied by his numerous followers, sanctified all the holy places. The beautiful Lord joked and laughed with His students, engaging freely in the pleasure of talking on a variety of topics. But when the Lord came to Gaya, His mood changed completely. For sixteen years, Sri Gaura Sundara has hid Himself from His devotees, increasing their hankering and love for Him. But, because of that increase, the Lord could not remain hidden long. In Gaya, Nimai revealed His actual devotional mood, answering His devotees' prayers that He too become a devotee of Lord Krsna.

Joining His beautiful hands, the golden Youth paid obeisances to the Holy City. He became forgetful of His students, their joking and conversation and was overcome with spiritual fervor. After visiting two of the shrines, Nimai visited the Vishnu temple of Sri Gadadhara. An actual imprint of Lord Krsna's lotus footstep is enshrined there. Brahmanasa were seated all around the holy site and garlands offered to those Feet were piled as high as a temple. The offerings of incense, oils, flowers, ghee, jewels, and other articles were incalculable. The brahmanas, who were as beautiful as celestials, were engaged in reciting the glories of Sri Gadadhara's Lotus Feet from all sides as follows:
(As Nimai Pandit gazes with great ecstasy)

Brahmana: O most fortunate people, behold these Feet that are embraced by the Lord of Kasi, that are the life of Laksmi, that manifest themselves on the head of Bali! Behold those Feet Whose momentary meditation frees one the influence of Yamaraj, the God of Death! Behold, all you fortunate people, the same Lotus Feet are so rarely attained by the highest yogis, those Feet in Whom the sanctifying Bhagirathi makes her appearance. Fortuante people, behold those dearly beloved Feet that rest on the soft couch of Sri Ananta.

Narrator: At that time, Sri Isvara Puri appeared. He seemed to come by accident, but actually it was the awakened desire for pure love of Krsna in Nimai' s heart that brought Him there, for Sri Isvara Puri is Sri Caitanya's beloved Spiritual Master. Sri Isvara Puri, seeing the ecstatic mood of Nimai Pandit, embraced Him.

Nimai: My pilgrimage to Gaya has born fruit only now, inasmuch as I have attained the sight of your feet. By performing the funeral ceremony at Gaya, only the ancestor to whom it is offered is relieved from his suffering. But the sight of you instantly frees unlimited numbers of departed souls from their sufferings. Therefore, the Holy Place itself is not equal to you. You are the highest of all pilgrimage sites and the best of all places of pilgrimage. Saints of your caliber are themselves places of pilgrimage. Kindly deliver Me from the ocean of this worldly existence. I surrender to you; may you be pleased to make Me drink the nectar of the Lotus

Feet of Lord Krsna. This is the gift I pray for.

Isvara Puri: Listen, Pandita, I know that You are the Supreme Isvara Himself. I have had an auspicious dream on this very day. Now I have obtained the fruit of the dream in this tangible form. I tell You the truth, Pandit - at the sight of You I experience unending, transcendental bliss. Ever since I first saw You at Navadvipa, nothing else has had any attraction for my heart. By seeing You, I experience the same bliss as by seeing Lord Krsna.

Nimai: (laughing) I am, indeed, most fortunate.

Scene Two

Narrator: Having greeted Sri Isvara Puri in this manner, Nimai Pandit asked his permission to perform the funeral rights that are written in the scriptures. All the worldly sufferings of those brahmanas who took the remnants of Nimai Pandit's offerings on their heads were cancelled. Afterwards, the Lord took excellent garlands and sandalwood paste and, with His own beautiful hands worshipped the Footprint of Sri Vishnu with great joy. The Lord then returned to His lodgings and satisfied the brahmanas with gifts. After taking rest, Nimai began to cook His meal.

Just as He had finished cooking, Sri Isvara Puri arrived as a guest. In the act of chanting the Names of Sri Krsna in pure devotion, Sri Isvara Puri came to the place where the lord was preparing His meal. Nimai Pandit offered him a seat with great reverence.

Isvara Puri: (laughing) So, Pandit, I see that I have come at the perfect time.

Nimai: Since good fortune has manifested itself, may your Reverence accept the charity of this cooked food today.

Isvara Puri: And what will You have for lunch?

Nimai: I will cook again.

Isvara Puri: What is the use of cooking again? Divide the cooked food into two halves.

Nimai: If, indeed, you want to help Me at all, then please accept all the food that I have cooked.

Narrator: So relishable is the fruit of love of God, that God Himself exchanges roles with His devotee in order to taste it. The Supreme Isvara becomes the menial servant of His loving devotee, Isvara Puri, because of his submissive and menial service to his Spiritual Master, Madhavendra Puri, became blessed with pure, ecstatic love of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna.

Because of Isvara Puri's pure service mentality, Madhavendra Puri empowered Isvara Puri to convey that love to those whom he initiated. Of course, he only apparently initiates Sri Caitanya, Who is the source of all ecstatic mellows of love of God.

How then could Isvara Puri have developed such love before the Advent of Sri Krsna Caitanya? Madhavendra Puri was a sannyasi in the spiritual community known as the Madhva sampradaya. Vaishnavas recognize four original sampradayas or spiritual communities, which contain the various methods and philosophy of pure worship of Sri Krsna. The mood in which Sri Krsna Caitanya displayed the highest worship and love for SK is the mood of Srimati Radharani - loving devotional service in separation from the Lord. The present day Gaudiya-Madhva sampradaya, coming in direct line from Sri Caitanya, considers worship in separation to be the topmost level of devotional service.

However, the Madhva sampradaya had no worship or realization of devotional service in this mood of separation and conjugal love until Sri Madhavendra Puri revealed it through his worship of Lord Krsna. He received the authority of his worship from Srila
Nityananda Prabhu, the eternal associate of Lord Caitanya. Although Sri Madhavendra Puri seems to have introduced something new into his sampradaya, he actually simply uncovered one part of K's overall plan to unite the four sampradayas throughout His Pastimes as Sri Caitanya.

Sri Madhavendra Puri placed the germinating seed of ecstatic love within the Madhva sampradaya, which had been mainly concerned with following rules and regulations and prescribed forms of worship, while developing strong philosophy to defeat the Mayavadis. This seed fructified in the pure worship of Sri Isvara Puri and became the great tree of ecstatic love of Lord Krsna embodied in Sri Caitanya.
(Perform initiation ceremony.)

Scene Three

Narrator: Shortly after His initiation, as Sri Caitanya was meditating on the Holy Names in private, the impulse of loving devotion, which had so long been gathering strength within His heart, suddenly burst through all restraints and became manifest in the world as pure love of God. The Lord could be heard crying with a loud voice. The words He recited appeared to be directly from the scriptures but actually, they were formerly spoken by Srimati Radharani during Her lila. Now the Lord was recalling Her words as He became overwhelmed with Her sentiments.

Nimai: O Krsna! O My Darling! Sri Hari, My Life, My Soul! Where have You gone after stealing My heart!? Indeed, I had obtained My Lord but now where has He gone?

Narrator: Before returning to Navadvip, Sri Caitanya visited the birthplace of His Spiritual Master. Arriving at the site, the Lord greeted it with His fervent attention, saying, "I make My obeisances to Sri Kumara Hatta, the blessed village in which Sri Isvara Puri made his appearance in the world!" Lord Caitanya wept for a long time and could not articulate any other sound except, "Isvara Puri!"

The Lord took some earth from that spot and, tying it into His own outer cloth, took it with Him. "This is the birthplace of Sri Isvara Puri," Sri Gaura Chandra declared. "This earth is My heart's love, My treasure, My life." With such intensity does the Lord love the surrendered servant of His servant, Isvara Puri.

Though Sri Caitanya carefully followed the Vedic injunctions for visiting a holy place by offering the due sacrifice and by bathing in the sacred Ganges, He revealed the true place of pilgrimage in His praise of Sri Isvara Puri. Sri Krsna Caitanya is the complete embodiment of the Srimad Bhagavatam, the literary ripened fruit of all the Vedic scriptures. It is stated therien that those saints who have taken complete shelter at the Lotus Feet of Sri Krsna can at once purify those who come in touch with them; whereas the waters of Sri Ganga-devi purify only after prolonged use. The association of a pure devotee has immediate effect and thus is more purifying than the sacred rivers.
(Bhajan)

The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Three - Nimai Pandit's Sankirtan Movement

Caitanya as Krsna –Ecstasy in the Courtyard

(Malini is seated. Nimai enters.)

Narrator: Why, it's Malini! Why are you sitting out here?

Malini: See here, I have threaded a garland for You. Everyone else decorates You with garlands and sandalwood paste and I also have the desire to garland You. I have prepared this in that hope. (holds it up) You will put it on, won't You?

Narrator: (smiling) Give it here.
(He holds out His hand but she places the garland around His neck.) What do you see, Mallini?

Malini: (startled) Oh! What do I see? What else! I am looking at You and Oh! I have never beheld anything like this before!(flute music is heard) What exquisite beauty! Oh, I must have performed a great many pious activities my heart bets with contentment! How sweet the sound of the flute! My Lord, please play it once more! Alas, I can't understand! I can't! My life's cup is overflowing with contention!
(Mother Saci enters)

Saci: Dear me, what is this? Nimai, are You all right?

Nimai: (in ecstatic trance) I hold the conch, wheel, mace and lotus I am Krsna. The deluded humanity does not recognize Me.
See Lord Brahma and other demigods approach me with folded hands, offering panegyrics. I incarnate in every millennium to destroy the demons and uphold religious principles. Creation, maintenance and annihilation are carried out under my orders. I am the Supreme Absolute Whole yet I pervade everything.

Saci: Nimai, Nimai, my darling, what is this all about?

Nimai: See. Look. Open your eyes. Behold the entire cosmic manifestation in the pores of My body. Who is My father? Who is My mother? And who is My son or brother? I appear in many forms in this material Universe.

Saci: Gracious me! All is lost! What is happening to me? Nimai, Nimai, my dearest, please be calm!

Nimai: Who are you? And who is your Nimai? I, and no one else is the Supreme Absolute and Ultimate. Everything else is but the transformation of My energies.

Saci: O Divine Mother, what is happening to me!? Is Nimai possessed by a ghost? Or, is it simply some illness like having an excess of wind in the system? Why do I have to suffer in this way?

Nimai: I lie on Ananta Sesa in the Causal Ocean and by the arrangement of My internal

potency, Laksmidevi is serving My feet. Who but Me decides the workings of the material cosmos - millions of universes are created in a matter of moments. Everything, whether creation, preservation or destruction is carried out by My energy. This illusory energy of Maya is the cause of duality.
(Some ladies enter)

Neighbor: Dear Lady, what has overcome your son?

Saci: I am at a complete loss! He returned home and started shouting these incomprehensible statements to me. (in a deep voice) "I am unadulterated and Absolute. There is no truth superior to Me. The illusory maya potency creates dualities," And some such blabberings!

Nimai: This mundane world is the cause of desire. Hence, O living entities, forsake your sensual hankerings; then, surely you can achieve the eternal treasure easily. The desire to enjoy gives birth to mind and mind is the cause of the body. The mind simply floats on the ocean of unlimited desires. The living entity becomes bewildered by the spirit of exploitation and enjoyment and forgets his original constitutional identity as the eternal servant of the Supreme Lord. Thus, he is forced to take birth in a human body. Puffed-up by the mood of "lording it over the material energy," he is put into dark delusion. Engrossed in struggling against the temporal forces of sadness and joy, and tolerating the inevitable cycle of birth and death, life after life. Being so entangled, he is unable to muster up sufficient effort to put an end to his miseries.
Out of compassion for these suffering souls, I have appeared in this human form. By the propagation of the Lord's Holy Names, I shall drive away their distress e to illusion. O souls stricken with affliction, take shelter of Me and dissolve your discontent!

Saci: Just see this great mishap! Do you listen to what He says!?

Nimai: I play on the flute in the forests of Vrndavan for the pleasure of the gopis. Whoever desires My love, I shower them profusely with it, relieving them from the whirlpool of material attachments. Come, all who are thirsting, and drink from the inexhaustible Spring of Divine Love!

Neighbor: My dear Saci Devi, try to recollect Nimai's earlier days As an infant, your son would immediately stop His crying on hearing the Holy Name! I am sure this disease will be cured simply by loud chanting. Come, let us all sing Hari's name!

All: Haribol! Haribol! Haribol!

Nimai: Yes! Chant in great tumult the Lord's name! There is no other process for Salvation than the chanting of the Holy Names! It will bless you with all perfection.
The Lord's name is the quintessence of all spiritual activities. Sing the Holy Names! Chant the Holy Names! Vibrate the Holy Names all the time! Abrogate your anxiety, the Holy Names will transport you to the Lord's eternal abode!
He is dear to Me who sings the Holy Names of Hare and Krsna!

All: Haribol! Hare Krsna!

Saci: Nimai, O Nimai! Why have You become so, my Darling?: You are the vision for the blind! See how your mother has to shed tears!

Nimai: (Coming out of trance) Mother! Mother! Why is there such a crowd here?

Saci: Nimai! Tell me who has done this to You? Why did You lose Your mental equilibrium?

Nimai: Why Mother, what do you mean? Mental equilibrium? I have not lost anything.

Saci: My darling son, my love, why bring more misery to this unfortunate soul? Just come, dear, it is past noon and You have not eaten anything. After lunch, You should rest
(Everyone leaves.)

The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Three - Nimai Pandit's Sankirtan Movement

Youthful Nimai Challenged by His Students

Scene One - In Nimai's Sanskrit grammar school

Narrator:Nimai is in His teens now. Once, the Lord had gone to Gaya to perform pinda for His departed father. There He took initiation from Ishvara Puri. When He returned home, He was a changed person. No longer was He Nimai Pandit, a big scholar, defeater of Keshava Kashmiri, but now He was a performer of sankirtan. One day, as He was conducting a class on Sanskrit grammar...

Nimai:Class, please take a break now while I speak with this learned astrologer, who has so kindly agreed to visit us. (students leave)

Nimai:Please come, my dear Brahmana, please be seated. Now, with your calculations, please ascertain what my previous birth was.

Brahmana:Yes, now let me see... This calculation is very strange. Are You sure about Your signs?

Nimai:Yes, positive. Tell Me what do you see?

Brahmana:Just a minute, let me double-check.

Nimai:Well, then, who was I in My previous birth?

Brahmana:My dear sir, in Your previous birth You were the shelter of all creation, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Your identity is inconceivable by my calculations.

Nimai:My dear sir, I think you do not know very clearly who I was, for I know that in My previous birth I was a cowherd boy. I was born in the family of cowherd men, and I gave protection to cows and calves. And because of My pious activities, I have now become the son of a brahmana.

Brahmana:What I saw in my meditation was full of opulences, so I was very much confused. I am certain that Your form and the form I saw in the meditation are one and the same. Whoever You are, I offer my humble obeisances unto You!

Nimai:I am very happy with you. (Brahmana goes off. Students come back) Alright, boys, today we will practice our grammar by glorifying Krishna, then we will have more kirtan.

Student 1:My dear teacher, how is it that now Your teaching is very different?

Student 2:Yes, it is always about Krishna.

Student 1:We are always chanting, not studying like we used to.

Student 2:Maybe we can massage Your head with coconut oil, which will sooth Your head.

Nimai: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Scene Two

Narrator:One day, the Lord, in the ecstasy of the gopis, was chanting "gopi, gopi!!"

Nimai:Gopi, gopi, gopi!

Student 1:Why are You chanting the name "gopi, gopi," instead of the Holy Name of Krishna which is so glorious? What pious result will You achieve by such chanting? I think You definitely need oil on Your head. What will You gain by chanting "gopi, gopi?"

Nimai: O Krsna! You rascal, You have stolen My heart and will not give it back! And now, this foolish Brahmana is telling me not to glorify You!
(to student) How dare you speak like that?! Today I shall beat you with My stick!
(Nimai Pandit picks up a stick and chases the Student offstage.)

Scene Three

1st Student: Did you hear what Nimai Pandit did today?

2nd Student: What did He do?

1st Student: Well, I was walking past the house of Nimai Pandit and heard Him chanting "Gopi! Gopi!" instead of the names of Krsna! When I questioned him about this, He became angry and He began to rebuke Lord Krsna in very severe tones and then ...

2nd Student: What did He do then?

1st Student: He jumped up and chased me! Me, a Brahmana ! With a stick! He could have created a serious offense but, just then, His associate caught hold of Him and, calming Him, took Him somewhere else.
(Students become angry.)

2nd Student: Nimai Pandit has alone spoiled the entire country.

3rd Student: He wants to strike a caste Brahmana!

4th Student: He has no fear of religious principles!

2ND Student: If He again attempts such an atrocious act then we should retaliate and strike Him in turn!

5th Student: Who is He, an important person, that He dares to check us in this way?

4th Student: The others will want to hear of this; let's go and find them!
(The students leave and come back with an angry father)

Scene Four

Brahmana: (to Nimai Pandit) Why are you chasing the Brahmana students like this? You

should show them Your mercy. They are simply young boys! Do You have no shame? How dare You lift a stick to strike the body of a brahmana boy? You have no fear that You are going to break the religious principles. If You ever dare to raise Your voice or a stick to these boys again, we will all get together and strike You! (He leaves.)

Narrator: Nimai Pandit could understand the degradation of these students because He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He wanted to rescue these poor caste Brahmanas from the snares of Impersonalism and so meditated on ways to increase their receptivity to Him.

Nimai Pandit: All the so-called professors and scientists and their students generally follow the regulative principles of religion, fruitive activities and austerities, yet, at the same time, they are blasphemers and rogues. If I do not induce them to take to devotional service, because of committing the offense of blasphemy, none of these people will be able to take to it. I have come to deliver all the fallen souls, but now just the opposite has happened. How can these rogues be delivered? How may they be benefitted? If these rogues offer me obeisances, the reactions of their sinful activities will be nullified. Then, if I induce them, they will take to devotional service. I must certainly deliver all these fallen souls who blaspheme Me and do not offer Me obeisances. I must accept the renounced order of life, sanyassa for thus people will offer Me their obeisances. This will relieve them of all the reactions to their offenses. Then, by My grace, devotional service, bhakti, will awaken in their pure hearts.

Somehow or other, I must engage the Brahmana students in My service. Because they do not respect householders and Vaisnavas, they do not hear My teachings. Generally, the Vaisnavas do not take sanyassa but if I were to take Sanyassa they would automatically bow down to Me due to their family upbringing.

The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Three - Nimai Pandit's Sankirtan Movement

Haridas Thakur Comes to Navadvip

Scene One - In Front of Sri Advaita Acharya's House

Srivasa: Who is Haridasa Thakur?

Advaita: Haridas Thakur is a great devotee of the Lord. He appeared in a family of Muslims, but he chants incessantly the Holy Name of Lord Krsna. Haridas Thakur makes no distinction among men, whether high or low and wherever devotional activities are in progress, he is seen in the midst of it all. His high degree of devotion activities are truly wonderful. Nawab Hussein Shah, the Muslim Emperor, hearing about him ordered his arrest. When Haridas Thakur was brought, bound, to his court, the Nawab was livid with anger. He cries, "What behavior is this? Why have you accepted the religion of a "Kafir," a non-believer?

Haridas replied, "The Lord is Supreme and Omnipotent. He appears in many forms but He accepts a human form specifically to redeem the fallen conditioned souls. The Supreme Lord is one, but to show special favor to His unalloyed devotees, He appears in different incarnations - thus seeming to be many. In whatever way the Lord wishes to reveal Himself to His devotees, they worship Him accordingly.

There is no distinction between Hindu, Muslim or Christian - whoever worships the Lord with devotion, his human-life is successful. The consideration of high or low is but a perversion of the mind. In whatever way the Lord showers His grace upon us, gratefully we should worship Him.

Srivasa: Oh, how glorious! It is wonderful to hear this! The Nawab must have been glad to hear this!

Advaita: The foolish Nawab paid no heed to the spiritual instructions. Rather, he acted on the poisonous advice of his Muslim pontiff and ordered his guards, (louder) "go and whip this knave in all the market places and if, after this, he is still alive, then I will be convinced about the authenticity of his religion."

Srivasa: How terrible!

Advaita: For one who has taken complete shelter of the Lord, what can a mere Governor do? They savagely rained whip-lashes upon him but to Haridas they were as a fresh shower of flowers. The Nawab, upon hearing about how Haridas had prayed for the guards, "O Merciful Lord, forgive these guards, for they are not responsible for their actions," fell down at the feet of Haridas and begged forgiveness. Haridas Thakur satisfied the Nawab with warm and affectionate words but would not stay overnight, preferring to return to his bare hut to continue his meditations.

Srivasa: Really! How many pious deeds he must have performed to be crowned with such deep devotion. He has shown his devotion by example as well as words.

Advaita: I have heard that this holiest of saints will be coming here. By his favor, our devotion will certainly increase. There was once a destitute prostitute who simply by his association achieved firm realization of Lord Krsna.

Srivasa: What are the details? Please tell us.

Advaita: Some rascal, in an attempt to discredit Thakur Haridas, sent a woman of ill-repute to his lonely cottage. Arriving in the evening, she frankly expressed that she wanted her base carnal desires satisfied by him. Haridas Thakur replied that he could not do any activity until he had fulfilled his vow of chanting a prescribed number of Holy Names. She sat the entire night and listened to the Thakur's chanting. The sun rose and he told her to come back that evening. That night and the next were like the first night. The prostitute, overwhelmed with awe and reverence, threw herself at the feet of Haridas Thakur. The kindly sage initiated the repentant woman into the chanting of the Lord's Holy Name and left that place to her. Now, Vaisnavas come from miles around to hear from this renounced lady as she absorbs herself day and night in devotional service.

Srivasa: Just see! A devotee is a touchstone - turning iron into gold! When is Haridas Thakur coming our way?

Advaita: I do not know exactly when, but I have heard that soon he will come to Nadia.

Scene Two

Neighbor: Hey, now listen here! Are you not going to allow anyone to sleep? As soon as a few of you get together, you start howling like wolves! Without shrieking, your Lord Hari cannot hear or what? (pointing at Mukunda) Now, you have also ganged up with them, poisoning the entire land? What else! Hailing from a good family, giving up work and household just to join the club, and bray like an ass!

Mukunda: But sir, we simply glorify the Supreme Lord, Hari and nothing else. We perform congregational chanting.

Neighbor: If you are singing the glories of the Lord, then why do you bray like asses? Is it not possible to repeat the Lord's name softly in one's mind? How is it possible to study in such unruly conditions - always someone is wailing, "O Lord of my heart! Where are You now!" It sounds like some frivolous refrain, a new concoction! I warn you, no good will come of it.
Are the people who work to make this city great not supposed to sleep so that they can "benefit" from your devotions? I warn you, after a hard day's work, people want their peace and quiet and their recreation.

2nd Neighbor: Does a Vaisnava sleep with open eyes, singing, "Do not sleep my mind! Do not sleep my mind!" I make it clear to you, mister, this can't go on in Nadia!

Srivasa: Nadia is the place for chanting Lord Hari's name for here Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu will inaugerate the Sankirtan Movement. From here, this chanting will spread to every town and village.

2nd Neighbor: I shall go to the other important men in town and tell them that you people are stubborn and uncooperative. If they want you out of Nadia, then you will be!
(they leave)

Srivasa: O Savior of the Weak, when will devotion rise within their hearts? How long before the residents of Nadia become maddened with the Lord's Holy Name?

Advaita: I can see with my transcendental vision that soon the Lord's name will be propagated all over the Universe like a tidal wave. Fully intoxicated with the Lord's honey-dew name, day

and night shall pass in thrill. What fear does a Vaisnava have when the heart is saturated with the Holy Name? Sing Hari's Name with all your energy, Brothers!

All: Haribol! Jai Radhe!
(kirtan)

Advaita: How fine! How wonderful! What stranger is that in the kirtan, singing with such a melodious voice? He looks like a perfect Vaisnava - full of life, bright as the sun! He must be some great sadhu.

Haridas: (stepping forward) Respected sir, I am Haridas, a humble servant of Lord Hari. I came here, attracted by your kirtan, to associate with the Lord's devotees. Now my life has attained perfection. Please tell me about Lord Krsna; appease my parched soul.

All: Haribol! Haribol!

Advaita: Blessed truly is the land of Nadia, and here is that great saint that we have heard so much about - an embodiment of pure devotion! Now that you have come to my residence, allow me to hear about Lord Krsna from you!

Haridas: Dear sir, I had one wish in my heart, that the Holy Name will engladden all. Now I perceive deep within me, that the propagator of the Holy Name has taken birth. He's here, I have come to see Him.

Srivasa: Who is this preacher? How long will it be before we can freely chant the Lord's name? In a great festive mood, the Vaisnavas will congregate. In ecstatic joy, flood the atmosphere with singing and chanting!

Haridas: Then kindly hear - last night, as I was in deep meditation, I beheld with spriritual vision an exquisite form - He was full of transcendental brilliance and spoke with honey-mellow tones, instructing me to come to Nadia saying, "I have appeared in the human form in Nadia to distribute the Lord's Holy Name; but the time is not yet right. When all the Vaisnavas from everywhere assemble in Nadia, then the festival of the Holy Names will commence!"

Advaita: I told you! I told you all that our very own Lord, Krsna, has appeared! Now the entire world will be flooded with the Holy Names. Hear this confirmed by a sadhu. What do I fear now? No more inhibitions will I entertain - come let us "wail and bray" to our heart's content!

All: Haribol! Haribol! Haribol!

Devotee: Srila Haridas Thakur! My mind is like the turbulent waters of an ocean of anxiety! I pray at your lotus feet - I would like to hear something about devotion from you. Please instruct me - what is left of devotion without jnana or knowledge?

Haridas: You have inquired about the science of devotion - this is truly kind of you; I shall say as much as I know. To acquire knowledge, one has to undergo severe austerities and physical pains in order to conquer the carnal urges. This process is dry and boring. But, devotion to Lord Krsna is a priceless gem in the inner sanctorum of the heart. There is no one who is refused this treasure, whether he be poor or weak.
The nectarean taste of devotion sweetens the days and nights. Devotion is the rarest prize of human birth, where even sensual enjoyments and salvation kneels down fawning - Ah! Fathomless is the profundity of devotion.

2nd Devotee: How can devotion bloom in my heart without knowledge to guide me? I have been analyzing matter by speculative means in order to understand the essence of all perceptions. What other knowledge can distinguish reality from imagination?

Haridas: The exalted realm of devotion is something very unique. There is no consideration of auspicious or inauspicious in its execution. The mind takes whatever course it will, independent of reason or circumstances. The entire being, once magnetized by devotion, ridicules material gains and failures. Devotion is the very life and devotion is the only cause of devotion.

3rd Devotee: This does not sound very consistent. If the mind goes where it desires, then what is the condition of our intelligence, morality, and character? How can we then vanquish the vices?

Haridas: The one who makes a distinction between proper and improper is in need of intelligence or a sense of morality to suppress his base instincts. But, he who is without material desires, what power does he lack?

Just ponder a while - the cowherd damsels of Vrndavana would run to see Krsna without any apparent reason. They voluntarily invite illrepute. Oblivious to all else, they freely wept, being unable to see Krsna. Sobbing, they kept repeating, "Where is Krsna, the light of my life, my treasure?" I consider that these ladies have achieved devotion with great ease and without treading the analytical path to approach the Supreme Truth.

2nd Devotee: It is understandable, the joy the gopis felt on seeing Krsna, but why did they feel such pain at the thought of separation from Krsna?

Haridas: Knowledge emphatically denounces attachment and suffering, yet just see what devotional emotions are in play in Vrndavana? Ever fresh loving mellows bloom like fragrant flowers, without consideration of pain or pleasure, right or wrong. Their whole consciousness is absorbed in Krsna, whether sad or cheerful. No logic can influence the gopis.

Srivasa: What is the use of futile arguments? Come, let us sing the glories of the Lord together!

2nd Devotee: Today, I have received a new life. Haribol! Haribol!

Advaita: Come Thakurji, let us go inside and sing behind closed doors, otherwise these atheists will vex us.
(Everyone leaves.)

The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Two - Nimai Pandit As A Youth

Sri Caitanya and His Teacher

Scene One - In the House of Jagannath Misra

(Saci Devi, the mother of Nimai Pandit meets with Srivasa Thakur)

Saci: Listen, O crest-jewel of the Vaisnavas, there is no one more wretched than I am - since birth, I have been only shedding tears. My first son, Visvarupa, left me so long ago From that time, I have felt a sharp thorn sticking into me. After my husband, Jagannath Misra's demise, flames of separation constantly devour me. I brought a beautiful and accomplished girl, Laxmi, to brighten the house as my daughter-in- law but the cruel hand of death snatched her away. I have not been able to overcome the grief I feel at her passing.

Again, after much consultation, I brought another bride for my son into our home. Her beauty is comparable only to Laksmidevi, the Goddess of Fortune and she possesses virtues equal only to the Sarasvate, the Goddess of Learning. I dare not think what misfortune might come, uninvited, next.

This troubles me, Thakur - my Nimai visited the pilgrimage site of Gaya recently and ever since His return, this transformation I notice on Him is incomprehensible to me. He remains silent at all times, not speaking. Sometimes he laughs and sometimes Nimai cries, just like a madman. In the night, He suddenly screams, "Where is Krsna, where is my Lord!" Torrents of tears stream down, sometimes He swoons, even, and rolls upon the ground. Everyone says that my son may be suffering from mental troubles. Anyhow, someone should cure Him. My mind refuses to function for thinking about Him. Is it a witch or a ghost that has possessed Nimai? I find no solution.

Srivasa: O reverend Mother, Saci Devi, your son's aberration is even desired by the most powerful demigods like Lord Brahma and Lord Siva. One who utters the Holy Names of the Lord constantly, like N, are protected from all dangers. What disease can attack Him? Why do you foolishly anticipate danger, then? Your son possesses extraordinary virtues. His entire being is imbued in thoughts of Krsna; you are truly a most fortunate lady to have borne such a son in your womb! Day and night, He swims in the nectar of devotion; for this reason, He laughs or cries, Mother! Drive away the depressing doubts from your mind and you shall receive the rarest gem of love of Krsna, by the mercy of your son.

Saci: Since Visvarupa left us, my heart tremors very often. I do not want to be hurt again if Nimai also leaves to become a renunciate. So, I arranged with much haste, His second marriage - but alas, my breast shudders at His demeanor with His new wife. He seemed happy in he association before He went to Gaya, but now, if He is with His wife, He remains silent often, yet at other times, he breaks into loud chastisement. His wife, a mere child, flees in fear. I have landed myself in such trouble, bringing another's daughter into this predicament. Poor Darling, Visnupriya cries all the time. I do not know what is in store for her

in the future. Srivasa Thakur, please kindly convince my Nimai to give more attention to His family affairs. Kindly do this on thing, O gentle Vaisnava - Nimai is the light of my life in an otherwise gloomy world!

Srivasa: O revered Mother, how can I make you understand? Your son is not an ordinary personality. He has specifically appeared to propagate the congregational chanting of the Holy Names of Krsna.
Your daughter-in-law is fortunate, otherwise who can get such a Personality as Nimai Pandit for her husband. His grace is capable of eradicating all nescience. You should know that your son is the liberator of the entire Universe.

Saci: Alas, Just see how torrential tears drown me in fits near madness! How can I rid myself of such feelings? Tell me, please tell me!

Srivasa: When the heart becomes surcharged with feelings for Lord Krsna, with each rememberance new moods develop and with each mood comes new attractions to the Holy Names of Krsna.
(Nimai enters)

Nimai: How blessed you are, Mother! Today a Vaisnava has set foot in your house! (to Srivasa) O Vaisnava master, where, oh where do I possess even the slightest love for Krsna? My fallen life has gone to waste. Tell me, O Master, where is Krsna? Where can I find Him? Please give me the dust of your lotus feet so that I may find the Lord of Vrndavan, Krsna. You, sir, are a pure devotee of the Lord: I submit to you that by your blessing I may receive love of Krsna. I harbor no other desire beyond that of becoming the menial servant of a Vaisnava. Then, certainly, I will attain Krsna who roams Gokula Vrndavan. Alas! Where did Sri Krsna go? Hari! Hari! Where are You now, my most merciful one! (faints in ecstasy)

Saci: Goodness Gracious, what has happened now!

Srivasa: Do not fear - just utter loudly the Holy Names of Lord Hari!

Both: Govinda! Hare Krsna! Krsna! Haribol!!

Nimai: Oh, how nectarean these Names are! There is nothing beyond the Holy Names! The glories of the Holy Names is such that Lord Brahma and Lord Siva are not adequately adept to describe them! The Lord's Holy Names are unparalleled - sing Lord Krsna's sweet Names and surely this material world will be transformed into the highest spiritual realm of Goloka! Blessed, blessed, blessed is this human birth! The Supreme Lord's mercy has given humanity the strength to chant the Holy Names. Blessed is the tongue that it can vibrate the holy name of the Lord. Blessed is Mother Earth, where devotional love for the Supreme Lord is being so widely spread! Haribol! Haribol!
(Gangaprasad Pandit enters)

Gangaprasada: So! It is good that you are here Thakurji, and you also Mother Saci Devi. I have much to say. (to Nimai) My dear Nimai, did I after all teach You only for this end? How can You think to leave Your new wife and Your grieving Mother at this time? (to Srivasa) Respected Srivasa, we are all Brahmanas here. We certainly both worship the same the same Lord Vishnu, but I see that together all of you young Vaisnavas are bent upon completely breaking up this family! And yes, the departed Sri Jagannatha Misra has entrusted Nimai to my care, to which I gave him my solemn oath.

Srivasa: Respected teacher, what is my offense? The Supreme Lord Sri Krsna has showered

His grace upon Nimai, what can I do?

Gangaprasada: Oh yes, certainly! Kindly present such explanations to a simpleton. A highly sensitive emotion in a volatile person will naturally sway to any direction as prompted. (to Nimai) And You, Nimai - You possess sufficient spiritual understanding; You should debate with Me upon what is the actual duty. What other religious duty is higher than household life? If you have some other opinion, You should convince me. You are a householder, Nimai, but instead of acting like one, You are acting quite to the contrary. Instead of defending it, You are preparing to abandon it!

Nimai: Master, I do not know why I do not know what to do, but my entire being is as if hypnotized. I ruminate at times as to whether I should remain in household life but I cannot stay. My heart runs away. I try to reason with it, but to no avail; it constantly wants to jump into the boundless ocean . My heart and soul is engrossed, what shall I debate.

For Me, Krsna is everything. I do not want anything besides Krsna in this life. Where is Krsna? Please tell Me - where, oh where is Krsna? I am burning up in the flames of separation from Him. I cannot bear it any more.
Alas, where are You, Krsna? Are You hiding from Me, My dear heart, My soul, My Hari? Life is waning from My body - come, show Yourself to Me!

Gangaprasada: Respected Thakur, if you kindly permit me, I would like to speak to my Pupil alone.

Srivasa: As you command. (to Nimai) I shall see You again in the evening, now speak to your teacher.

Nimai: My Master, I have a special request - kindly give Me shelter at your lotus feet! I hope that one day I shall see you again!
(Srivasa Thakur leaves.)

Gangaprasada: Very well! The One Who attracts You so much - worship Him. At the same time, You also need to subsist, One does not acquire the position of a grammar teacher with feeble fortunes. You are blessed by Mother Sarasvati, the Goddess of Learning and yet why do You spurn it?

Nimai: Master, I try to teach with the best of My capacity. I explain the scriptural purports to my students, but that does not satisfy them, so I told them to study elsewhere.

Gangaprasada: How can You say that You try Your upmost? "Logic, grammar, literary ornaments" in every instance Your reply is Your Krsna. When asked about the "root" of any word, Your answer is "Krsna!" How do You expect the students to be satisfied?

Nimai: Master, I have simply understood this to be the essence of all scriptures. The language belongs to Krsna. Logic and ornamental tools are meant to glorify Krsna and certainly Who else is the "root?" It is Krsna's mercy that living entities exist; without Krsna, it is all naught.

Gangaprasada: Oh no, no, that is simply Your mad ravings! That's delirium! Speak cohesively. Ever since Your return from Gaya Dhama, Your mind has been unsettled. I want to know who instructed you in this school of thought. Let us look now at the fact, Nimai. Your mother, Your wife, who do they have to look after them? They simply look to You for their sustenance; are they not your responsibility?

Nimai: Master, Who am I to take any responsibility? The fountainhead of the entire cosmos is

omnipresent. Krsna is the Cause of all beings an He looks after every living entity in this vast Universe, down to the most minute.

Who am I and what can I do? Whatever is done is all sanctioned by the Supreme Lord, Krsna Murari. Everyone is controlled by Krsna's energies. The Lord is kind and He is equally compassionate to everyone. I am like an infinitesimal drop in the ocean of material existence. Tell me, Master, what can I do?

Gangaprasada: Truly, it is Krsna's household and it is His responsibility to take care of it, yet without a medium, no works can be implemented. Like the planets orbit the sun, so also the relatives center around the household. In such a position of responsibility, who can remain without activity. Prescribed, authorized knowledge is not possible to be acquired without activity. Action is the cause of liberation, that is the essential teaching of the scriptures. I cannot ascertain where You have learned to be so contrary that You disregard this point.

Nimai: Please forgive Me, Master! The only medium or cause I saw was in Gaya Dhama. After I circumambulated the lotus feet of Sri Vishnu, I could understand how insignificant I was and how unimportant all work remains. I understood that Krsna is everything.

The Supreme Lord is all-pervasive. There is direct perception of this fact, not mere speculation. Out of His limitless mercy He has come to destroy the sufferings of humanity. The Supreme Lord has manifested His lotus feet in Gaya Dhama yet, how unfortunate I am, I have not been able to develop any attachment for those lotus feet!

I beheld in Gaya Dhama so many millions of spirit souls without a body roaming about just to drink the sweet ambrosia from the lotus feet of Sri Visnu.

So many Lord Brahmas and Lord Sivas were engrossed in thoughts of Lord Hari, singing His glories - but, wretched Me, I could not recognize the beloved Lord, Sri Hari. Chant the name of Hari! Let the days pass, dance in ecstasy and become maddened with love of Krsna. Trample insidious thoughts of liberation and drown fruitive activities in the shoreless waters of time. Simply glorify the Lord. There is nothing else in this world - Krsna is our mother, Krsna our father, Krsna our body, mind and soul. Take the Name of Krsna - say Hari! Sing that Holy Name which is unfettered of all anxiety.

Gangaprasada: (enlivened) Haribol!! Haribol!! Come, saturate me! Where did You find this sweet, divine love of Hari?

Together: Haribol!!Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Gangaprasada: O Saci Devi, I bow to Your good fortune. Your son is none other than Krsna Murari. Chant the Name of Hari the whole day long, (to Nimai) O Nimai, You have really understood the essence of the scriptures. Now, I am not going to leave Your association again. No longer shall I praise the futile activities of the householder.

Nimai: Come, Master, be merciful and take your noon prasadam in My house! Dear Mother, allow Me to serve My teacher. Let us make all arrangements.
(All Leave.)

Nityanand Prabhu Arrives in Navadvip

Scene - The Open Road

(Nityananda Prabhu sings as He walks towards Navadvip.)

Nitai: Song:
Hey hey hey, wake up Kanai Krsna, the day is well nigh
Let's go to the fields. Come, Kanai, come.
Get up Gopala, the others wait, looking eagerly to the road.
It's late and it's time to go and play.
Leaning beneath the Kadamba tree, play Your sweet flute
Moving close together, I will pick flowers and decorate You.

Come, Kanu, come, get up!
The restless cows graze not in the pastures,
Hearing no sound of Your flute.
Listen to their lowing, calling out for You.
They refuse to roam without You.
(The Neighbors enter.)

1st Man: O Good Grief! Is is it not enough to have one madman in the town? Now it is a whole circus! (calls)
I say, sir! What is this "Hey hey hey?"

Nitai: I am a beggar, sir.

1st Man: A beggar? Then just beg. Why do You have to yell,
"hey hey?"

Nitai: Song:
I beg only for love! Who is giving out such love here in Nadia?
Who is that, intoxicated with divine love, Who pours out this nectar, as much as you might want?
I heard souls whisper this news,
So I have come to find love here. I roam around the countryside
Like a floating cloud.
All because of this divine love.

1st Man: Couldn't He find a better place to do His sentimental stuff? I hope He doesn't turn out to be a thief!

2nd Man: No, no, you've perceived Him wrongly - He is an Avadhoot -an Anchorite! The characteristics are clearly exhibited on this Person!

1st Man: Absolute bogus! These guys are all thieves!
(Nimai enters. He emraces Lord Nityananda.)

Nimai: You are My Brother! Now, my life is worthwhile! Sublime! My dream has come true! You remained hidden in My dreams, only now showing Yourself here! My Brother! My elder Brother! Let Me see You run away from Me again!

Nitai: Where shall I run to? Keep Me forever by Your lotus feet. You have loved Me by making Me Your elder brother, now take care that You do not push Me away. You see, I am eternally

surrendered to You!

Nimai: You are the bestower of all good fortune, My dear elder brother and by Your mercy, I shall chant the glories of Krsna, here in Nadia. I shall beg divine love of Krsna from Your lotus feet. I beg for Your kindness, accompany Me to perform congregational chanting of the Holy Names in My house!

Nitai: My life is now perfect. Now that I have received Your association, I beg always the shelter of Your lotus feet.
(Nimai and Lord Nityananda leave)

2nd Man: Just see! Really that scholar Nimai has changed a lot. He came back from Gaya Dhama, left His School and students and spent His days in carrying different articles like mats, clothes, and fruits to the Vaisnava Brahmanas who went for ablutions to the Ganga. Then, He would entreat them, "Please bless Me that I may acquire love of Krsna." But now, I see He has got worse and taken to this mewing and wailing.

1st Man: That's really so! Before, as soon as He would spot a Vaisnava Renunciate, He would chase and harass them. But now, He has joined their gang! Just wait until they fall into the hands of those drunken rogues, Jagai and Madhai!!

2nd Man: It is true what you say, Nimai suddenly went beserk! He was such a scholar; if He had continued His school, then no other teachers would have attracted any students! I have heard that Jagai and Madhai are moving their crime wave in our direction. Let's get out of town ourselves, lest they take everything from us!

Lord Caitanya's Civil Disobedience Movement

Introduction

A Merchant enters the stage and mimes the selling of his wares. A thief comes up from behind him, holds him at the point of a knife, steals his money and knocks him down.

Next, a drunkard staggers on with his bottle in hand and collapses.

Finally, a cow enters and peacefully grazes. A butcher approaches with an axe and knocks down the cow.

Nimai Pandit, displaying great love and compassion, approaches the three areas of decadence and revives the battered and bewildered characters, who resolve their differences by embraces and dandavats.

Scene One The Palace of the Chand Kazi

(The kazi, Muslim Governor, is sitting on his throne and three Smarta Brahmanas stand before him. The kazi's servant stands to his right side.)

1st Smarta: Chand Kazi, there is something peculiar going on in the town of Navadvip and if something is not done about it soon, then I don't know what will happen! It is this chanting of Hare Krsna not that there is anything, per se, wrong with chanting the names of God! Of course, occasionally we do observe a religious ritual by singing and dancing and playing musical instruments, but all within reason! That is part of our Hindu tradition, but it is the way in which it is done, the place, the time and the people who are doing it that disturbs us. Do you realize that untouchables are chanting these mantras? This alone will bring disaster to the town!

Kazi: How is that?

2nd Smarta: Let me explain, Your Greatness. Please excuse me for saying this, Your Excellency, Chand Kazi, but since you are Muslim, you may not be familiar with our Hindhu theology and procedures.

Kazi: Go on.

2nd Smarta: Mantras and Vedic hymns are to be uttered only by the higher classes, especially the brahmanas. If the religious fanatics start giving these mantras to the untouchables, then this sinful act will bring great misfortune to the entire district! The karma will be overwhelming - famine, disease, pestilence!!

3rd Smarta: Right now, our entire Hindu religion is being undermined because, according to our scriptures, mantras are the most powerful representation of God. If these mantras are distributed everywhere, then the power of the mantras will be lost.

Kazi: Who are these brahmanas that are instigating this?

1st Smarta: It is one brahmana mainly, the son of Jagannath Misra.

2nd Smarta: Nimai Pandit is His name, although some call Him Gaurahari, or Caitanya, Your Excellency.

Kazi: Hmmmm, Gaurahari? And how do His followers conduct this chanting?

3rd Smarta: Let me tell you - it is really bizarre to see! You see, when we Hindus keep a nightlong vigil for worshiping the gods and goddesses, playing on musical instruments, dancing and chanting are fitting customs, but this loud chanting that goes on deafens our ears!! They do it all different times, and at night we can't get any sleep! All night we hear "Haribol! Haribol!"

2nd Smarta: Sometimes they become absolutely hysterical - jumping in the air, laughing, rolling on the ground and, crying loudly, they embrace one another! This is going on between mixed castes! It is total insanity.

Kazi: Gentlemen, you are all Hindus by birth, I am just
surprised that you have come here to complain against others who practice the same Hindu religion as you do.

1st Smarta: Your honor, we are real Hindus but this Nimai Pandit has introduced the Sankirtan Movement, which we have never heard of from our scriptures.

2nd Smarta: At night, we can't get any sleep, we are always kept awake. He has spoiled the Hindu religion! He has gotten the lower classes of men to chant the Hare Krsna mantra again and again. In this way, if the common men take to chanting, the power of God's name will be polluted!

3rd Smarta: This Nimai Pandit was formerly a very nice boy, but since He has returned from Gaya, He conducts Himself differently, Your Reverence. Now, He loudly sings all kinds of songs clapping, playing drums and hand cymbals and making tumultuous sounds that deafen our ears! He sometimes dances, sings, laughs, cries, falls down and rolls on the ground and jumps in the air! He has made all the people practically mad by always performing congregational chanting! He used to be a fine boy, a teacher of Grammar, but now -well, it must be something He eats, Your Excellency.

1st Smarta: I also suspect that they drink wine and womanize while they chant in their different dwellings!

Kazi: (surprised) Is that so!?

1st Smarta: Sir, you are the ruler of this district; whether Hindu or Muslim, everyone is under your protection. We are begging you to stop this frivolous chanting and make Gaurahari leave the town immediately.

2nd Smarta: Please make this Nimai Pandit leave town before it is deserted!
(Two Mohammedan Meat Eaters enter in an angry mood, and they greet the kazi.)

1st Meateater: (bowing, with hand gesture from forehead) A salaam alaikum.

Kazi: (with same gesture) Alaikum a salaam.
(to the Meat Eaters) Please excuse me for one moment, my friends. (to Smarta Brahmins) Anyway, gentlemen, I sympathize with you, but after all, the chanting is mainly going on in the private houses of the Vaishnavas and, as long as they keep it to themselves in that way, I really can't object too much. Now, good day, gentlemen!
(This reply doesn't please the Smartas but they start to leave, then loiter to hear what the Meat-Eaters have to say.)

1st Meateater: Sir, this time the Hindus have gone too far! They are becoming too bold. If you don't curb them, the King will punish you!

Kazi: What do you mean? What has happened?

1st Meateater: What has happened?! The worst possible thing! The Hindus are starting an uprising!

Kazi: What! That's impossible! Why, ever since the days of the
conquering Muslim hero, Vaktiyara Khiliji, the Hindus in Bengal have been severely suppressed by us! Practically, none of them have been able to practice their religion freely. In fact, they have almost forgotten their own religious principles, just like those two Hindus who were just here.

2nd Meateater: Well, from what we saw today in the market places and streets of Navadvip, it appears that they are fast to remember those principles. Yes, today in the market place we saw the Hindus gathered, chanting the names of their God. They were making a tumultuous sound and seemed completely fearless. We hear that it is the work of this One they call Gaura Hari!

Kazi: You mean to say that they were actually performing their
chanting in the streets? Why, this is amazing! They've always been such a bunch of cowards, practically like sheep under our thumbs. How can this be?

1st Meateater: You had better ask yourself how to stop it before the king hears of this.

2nd Meateater: You know how cruel he is, if he hears of this he
will have your head for being too lenient with the Hindus!
(Both Smarta Brahmins have come back into the room after hearing the news.)

1st Smarta: So now, my dear kazi, it seems as though Nimai's men are no longer content with chanting in their own homes. I think that it is time for you to put a stop to this once and for all!!

Kazi: (brooding) Yes, I think you're right. Tell me, where could I find Gaurahari? At the Misra's residence?

2nd Smarta: Perhaps at the home of Srivasa Thakur, Your Mercifulness. That is where they chant all night long.

Kazi: Have no fear, I will take care of this matter. You should expect no more disturbances, from hereon.

All: Thank you, thank you!

Scene Two - The House of Srivasa Thakur

(Loud kirtan is going on at the house of Srivas Thakur. Lord Caitanya is not present. The kazi arrives and shouts for them to stop, but they do not take notice of him due to the kirtan. Then he violently breaks one of the drums, and the devotees stop the kirtan, shocked and dismayed.)

Kazi:(loudly) For so long you did not follow the regulative principles of the Hindu religion but now you are following them with great enthusiasm. May I know by whose strength you are doing so? Who is responsible for this? (silence) Where is Srivasa Thakur? (Srivasa Thakur steps forward.)

Srivasa Thakur: Here, sir.

Kazi: Where is Gaurahari, the son of Jagannath Misra?

Srivasa Thakur: He is not here at present.

Kazi: Then give Him my message - I want no more of this chanting in the streets of Navadvip; it is a nuisance.
No one should perform Sankirtan on the streets of the city! Today, I am excusing the offense and returning home. I will leave this place knowing that I am perfectly understood.

Srivasa Thakur: Yes, of course, I will tell Him.

Kazi: And, you may add this - if, in the future, I shall see someone performing this loud chanting, I shall not only confiscate all of his property but I shall also convert him into a Mohammedan by forcing him to eat meat!!!
(With that the kazi exits and the devotees stand around very dejected.)

Srivasa Thakur: There is nothing like the Name of Lord Hari for freeing the world from its bonds of misconception and sin. This chanting has arisen like the sun, which dispels all darkness and dissipates illusion. It is sad that few people can appreciate the light and warmth that comes from the Holy Names.

Devotee: Srivasa Thakur, what will we do now?

Srivasa Thakur: We will take the problem up with our Lord, Sri Gaurahari. Let's all go to Him, immediately.
(They leave.)

Scene Three - Lord Caitanya's Room

(The Supreme Lord, Gaurahari, is speaking, other devotees listen attentively or sing responsively to a Bengali Bhajan.)

Srivasa Thakur: O Gaurahari, we have some unfortunate news.

Caitanya: What can be unfortunate, Srivasa?

Srivasa Thakur: We were conducting our chanting as usual,in my home, when we were interrupted by a very angry Chand Kazi.

2nd Devotee: (brings forward the broken mrdanga. He hands the broken mrdanga to the Lord, Who looks at it with concern.)

Caitanya: The kazi has done this?

2nd Devotee: (nods sadly) Yes.

Srivasa: He said if we don't give up our chanting, he would take away all our property and make us into Mohammedans!!

Caitanya: Nonsense! You are all eternal devotees of Lord Krsna. Go and perform Sankirtan! Tonight, I shall kill all the Mohammedans!!
(The devotees begin a timid kirtan, looking apprehensively about for the kazi. Lord Caitanya watches with great concern.They all leave. Music)

Scene Four Lord Caitanya's Room

Nityananda: I would go to every house in the Hindu section and when the householder came to his door, I would fall down at his feet and cry,"Please, I beg you! Just always chant the Holy Names Hare Krsna and depend upon Him!" Hardly a gentleman refused me and so, in this way, many fallen souls were saved today!

Caitanya: Jai Sri Krsna! This is wonderful! Please keep this door to door program going! Now, tell me, how is the chanting party doing, is it still going out daily into the market places and streets of the city?

Haridas: My dear Lord, the chanting party is going out as You
ordered, but the devotees' minds are full of anxiety. Ever since the kazi came and broke the drum, the devotees have been afraid, and so, they cannot perform the Sankirtan very blissfully!

Caitanya: I see. Then you should immediately call all of the
citizens together. I shall personally perform Sankirtan in each and every town this evening! Therefore, you should all decorate the city very nicely.
We will not be discouraged. We cannot be tolerant of those who try to obstruct the chanting. We will fight back, but not by lifting a single weapon. Armed with karatals and drums, we will hold a kirtan with a very large chanting party. Torches will light our way and the Holy Names will be our shield. Summon Advaita Acharya and Haridas Thakur. We will cover every street, every nook and corner of Navadvip and reach our destiny - the palace of Chand Kazi.

All: (very blissfully) Jai Mahaprahu! Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

Scene Five - Lord Caitanya's Civil Disobedience Movement

(kirtan tape plays in background)

Caitanya: How many people have come for the kirtan?

Srivas: By your command, at least one hundred thousand will join us before we reach the house of the kazi.

Caitanya: Jai! Hari Bol! I shall give everyone protecton. Let us see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan now!
(Lord Caitanya begins a kirtan and the party moves out of view. When they come out again, their ranks have swelled. If possible, they should hold a few torches. Several tapes of kirtans should be played in background to indicate that other parties are converging on the kazi's house.)

Caitanya: Do not disturb this respectable gentleman's property. We have come for friendly talks. I will sit here by the door and you older men go and inform the kazi that I have come to

converse with him.

Scene Six - The Muslim Governor's Office

(Kirtan is heard offstage as Kazi enters)

Kazi: (to servant) Can you get me some milk?

Servant: Milk, sir? I could get you something a little harder ...

Kazi: Milk. I understand it calms one's nerves. I've had a most trying day much to consider

Servant: Alrighty, then - I'll go find you some milk, sir.
(Servant leaves. Kazi paces back and forth. An Orderly on the staff of the Kazi enters. Servant returns with milk and cups.)

Kazi: (to Orderly) Here, take this milk.

Orderly: I don't drink milk.

Kazi: It calms the nerves. (hands Orderly a glass of milk) Go on, try it.
(They both drink milk.)

Orderly: It does calm the nerves! Hmmmm

Kazi: (kirtan is louder) Now, what happened?

Orderly: That's them again - that's the chanting!
(looks out the window with Chand Kazi)
They're coming this way! Do you think they are coming to see us?

Kazi: Probably.

Orderly: There are thousands of them! Maybe they will just pass by and leave us alone. Oh, I can't look!
(He squeezes his eyes shut and trembles.) Are they passing by?

Kazi: It doesn't look like it.
(The Orderly opens his eyes.)

Orderly: O Allah, they're trampling over your garden!

Kazi: Oh no! I see them coming! Roaring and angry! Guards! Protect the walls! I must hide! Oh, Lord! They are breaking down the walls and destroying the gardens!
You greet them at the door.
(Kazi retreats to end of stage, as if hiding.)

Orderly: Me!?

Kazi: I'll greet them if the noise subsides.
(Kazi disappears. Srivas Thakur and others knock on the door to the kazi's palace.)

Orderly: (answers door) Hello, you're not looking for the Kazi, are you? Oh, I'm sorry but he's

not here. Good day.
(He shuts the door. The devotees knock again. Orderly answers again.) I told you

Srivasa: We come in peace. Please summon the Kazi. Our Nimai Pandit wishes to debate with him. He will not leave until He sees the Kazi.
(Kazi approaches Srivasa Thakur. The elder devotees return with the kazi, who appears very afraid and reluctant. Lord Caitanya calms the crowd and stops the kirtan.)

Caitanya: (in a friendly way) Good evening, Chand Kazi, I am Caitanya.

Kazi: Namaste, Sadhuji!

Caitanya: Sir, I have come to your house as a guest, but upon seeing me, you hid yourself in your room. What kind of etiquette is this?

Kazi: (defensively) You came to my house in a very angry mood. I did not come to meet You immediately, just to pacify You. But, now that You are pacified, we can talk freely. Actually, You are just like my nephew, because Your grandfather, Nilambhara Cakravarti, was just like an uncle to me in the village where I was a boy. If a nephew is angry, his uncle should be tolerant and similarly, when an uncle commits an offense, the nephew should not take it very seriously.

Caitanya: You are quite right, my dear "Uncle." I have just come to your home to ask some questions about the Muslin faith.

Kazi: And You are welcome here! Now, tell me just what is on Your mind?
(The servant and orderly bring mats ab\nd they both sit.)

Scene Seven - The Debate

Caitanya: My dear "uncle", You drink cow's milk, therefore the cow is like your mother. The bull produces grains for your maintenance, therefore the bull is like you father. So tell me, what kind of religion is this you practice that allows you to kill your mother and father and eat them?

Kazi: Why, just as You have Your scriptures, we have ours, known as the Holy Koran. In the Koran, there is a regulation for killing cows and if such killing is done under the guidance of scripture, there is no sin.

Caitanya: No! The Vedas clearly say that cows should not be killed. Therefore, the Hindus do not engage in cow killing. However, there is a Vedic injunction which says that if a person is able to revive a living entity, then he can kill it and bring it back to life for experimental purposes. Therefore, the great sages sometimes killed animals and brought them back to life by chanting the Vedic hymns, just to prove the power of the Vedas. But now, there are no brahmanas with such powers and so, in this age, such arts are strictly forbidden.

In this age of Kali, five acts are forbidden: the offering of a cow in sacrifice, the offering of a horse in sacrifice, the acceptance of the order of sannyasa, the offering of oblations of flesh to the forefathers and a man's begetting children by his brother's wife.

Since you Mohammedans can not bring a dead animal back to life, you are responsible for killing that animal. Therefore, you are going to hell; there is no way for your deliverance. Cow killers are condemned to rot in hell for as many thousands

of years as there are hairs on the body of the cow they kill.

Kazi: There are many such mistakes in our scriptures. Their
compilers, not knowing the essence of knowledge, gave orders against all reason and argument.

Caitanya: My dear, uncle, I wish to ask you another question.
Recently, in your city, there is always congregational chanting of the Holy Name going on. As a Mohammedans magistrate, you were at first opposed to the Hindus but now you do not do anything to stop them. When you broke the mrdanga drum, you made some threats but when the chanting continued on the streets, you did not carry them out. I cannot understand why this change has come over you.

Kazi: Kindly listen, O Gaura Hari! Please come to a private place, I shall then explain.

Caitanya: Do not be afraid of these men, they are all My confidential associates, speak frankly.

Kazi: (a little hesitant) Well, when I went to the Hindu's
street, broke the drum and forbade the congregational chanting, that very night I had a terrible dream. I saw a greatly fearful lion, roaring very loudly, His body like a human being and His face like a lion!
(The spotlight shifts to a second scene where someone dressed to look like the kazi is lying down. Suddenly, Lord Nrsinghdev appears, roaring loudly. He places his nails on the chest of the "kazi.")

Nrsinghadev: I shall immediately split your chest just as you broke the mrdanga drum! You have forbidden the performance of My congregational chanting, therefore, I must destroy you!
(Kazi 2 closes his eyes and trembles.)
I have defeated you just to teach you a lesson. On
that day, you did not create a very great disturbance, therefore, I have excused you and not taken your life. But, if you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant. At that time, I shall kill you, your entire family and all the meat-eaters!! (roars)
(The spotlight shifts back to the scene of the kazi and Lord Caitanya conversing.)

Kazi: After saying this, the lion left, but I was very much afraid of Him! Just see the marks of His nails on my heart!
(Kazi rips open his shirt to show the long, red nail
marks of Lord Nrsinghadev. Everyone is amazed except for Lord Caitanya.) I did not speak to anyone about this, but the next day, one of my orderlies came to see me:
(spotlight shifts to second scene where Kazi 2 sits in deep thought.)

Orderly: Your honor, this morning I saw the Hindus again chanting in the street against your order but when I attempted to stop them, suddenly flames struck my face! My beard was burned and there were blisters on my cheeks. Others had the same experience.

Kazi 2: (fearful) Do not try to stop the chanting anymore! Just
return to your homes and sit down. (orderly exits)

1st Meateater: Hari! Hari! (throwing his hands up in anguish) Now there will always be unrestricted chanting of Krsna! Krsna! In the streets! The religion of the Hindus will increase unlimitedly. KRSNA! Krsna! That's all we can hear anymore!

2nd Meateater: We are becoming deaf from this Hari Hari! Krsna!
Hari Bol!
(He chants and the other Meateater joins him.)

Both: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Kazi 2: Enough! Enough! I know that the Hindus chant Hari and
Krsna, for those are the Names of their God. But, why do you two Mohammedan Meateaters also chant?

1st Meateater: (embarrassed) I don't know! I used to imitate them and joke with them but now my tongue can't stop saying Hari! Hari! Krsna Krsna Krsna Krsna! We have no desire to say it but we cannot help ourselves! I don't know what kind of magic these Hindus practice! I don't know what to do!

2nd Meateater: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare

1st Meateater: Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

Kazi 2: (comforting them) There now, don't worry, it will
probably pass in time. Just go home and rest. I'm sure you will forget these names before long.
(to himself) What will happen next? It seems that this Hare Krsna Movement cannot be stopped!
(The Meat Eaters leave, still chanting. The spotlight shifts to the conversation between Lord Caitanya and the kazi.)

Kazi: I know now that You are the Supreme Lord, Narayana Himself.

Caitanya: (Pleased, Lord Caitanya touches the kazi.) The chanting of the Holy Name from your mouth has performed a wonder. It has nullified the reactions of your many sins. Now, you have become supremely pure.

Kazi: Only by Your mercy have my bad intentions completely vanished. Kindly favor me so that my devotion will always be fixed upon You.

Caitanya: I wish to beg you for one favor in charity. You must
pledge that this Sankirtan Movement will never again be stopped by you, at least not in the district of Nadia.

Kazi: To as many descendants as take birth in my dynasty in the future, I give this grave admonition: No one shall check this Sankirtan Movement!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! (kirtan)

The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Three - Nimai Pandit's Sankirtan Movement

Nimai Pandit Takes Sannyasa

Scene One - At Jaganath Misra's house

Vishupriya: Mother, what omen is it, when the left eye twitches? I am feeling very strange. Mother, where has my Lord, my husband, Nimai, gone to? What is the reason for such restlessness? Mother, hold me!

Saci: Darling, why do you fear!? My Nimai will soon return home.

Visnupriya: Mother, I cannot pacify my mind; I feel that I will never see Him again! Mother dear, I see everything shrouded in gloom what is all this!? What has happened to me?

Saci: O Providence, it is beyond me to fathom Your mind! What is happening to my daughter-in-law? Is another calamity to fall on us? Daughter! Go look after the household affairs. There, my Nimai is coming. And hush, dear! Should one even think of such inauspicious events?

Visnupriya: Mother, my mind does not even want to understand! Mother dear, I am so unfortunate; will my sweet, dear husband ever be really mine? I am in constant anxiety that I might forever lose sight of His lotus feet.

Saci: Go, my dear, perform your duties - cook Him some rice and vegetables.

Visnupriya: Yes, I will go to the kitchen right away; just let me go to see Him once more!

Saci: Can't you see Him from here? There He goes to His seat; go do your work.

Visnupriya: I'm going Mother. I wonder, will I ever possess the Treasure of my heart?
(She leaves. Nimai enters.)

Nimai: Mother, listen carefully, please! My mind is in intense turmoil - seeing the people everywhere in torment, I can no longer remain in the bliss of household life! I will go out to spread the glories of the Holy Names and quench my thirsting mind! Bless Me, Mother - at sunrise, I shall go forth.

Saci: Nimai! O Nimai! What are You saying? Where will You go? And, if You leave, what have I left to live for?

Nimai: Mother dear, I will become a sanyassi and live in loving devotion to Lord Krsna.

Saci: Alas! Why, oh why, do You kill Your mother?
(Saci Devi faints to the ground.)

Nimai: Mother! Mother, get up, dear Mother! Please do not cause a hindrance to such an august activity. Get up and bless Me in My endeavor. Do not resist this divine mission under the influence of family attachment.

Saci: Nimai, dear Nimai, what will happen to me? Darling, I will not let You go! Still, I say that if You leave, then You will be slaying Your own mother!

Nimai: Mother, restrain your tears! Why do you check this holy mission. Others may roam foreign countries to bring back jewels and wealth - but, for you, I will return with Krsna Prema, loving precipitation with Lord Krsna. Why, then, do you weep any more? A loving mother bids her son good bye even though he goes in search of insignificant, worldly treasures, while I, Mother, go to find life's goal -"love of Krsna." Would you obstruct My path? Understand, My dear Mother, I have borne the yoke of a human birth only to propagate this divine mission. If I should refrain now from My pursuit, great inauspiciousness will come upon all.

Saci: Alas, my Nimai, with what strength shall I remain further in this life? I possess but one binding to this world; why must You sever even that? Without You, this house will be like a forlorn forest. How am I to stay alone in a graveyard? O my darling, Nimai, do not strike thunder in my heart. Did I nurse You in my womb for this?

Nimai: My dear Mother, cry with the name of Krsna on your lips. Do not lament after "Nimai." Taking Krsna's Holy Names, you will not in any way loose Him. Do not cry, Mother - drive away your misconceptions. Know for certain, Mother, that Lord Krsna is the only absolute reality. Who in this world is one's own? You have had so many sons in your previous births and you have lost them all. The more you lament for the impermanent, deeper becomes one's delirium. So, do not cry. And, if at all, then cry out for Lord Krsna. Your Son, renouncing everything, will freely disperse the Holy Names of the Lord. How laudable is your good fortune, yet unmatched in this world.

My forefathers were all devotees of the Supreme Lord, Vishnu and, due to this piety, your Son has become a servant of the Supreme Lord. It is by the Supreme Lord's mercy that His Holy Names will be propagated through Me. This congregational chanting will inundate the universe in ecstasy - don't you want to make your Son responsible for such an honorific work? Shaking off the lower self, let me aspire after the pinnacle of human perfection, the Eternal.

Saci:But I am a woman and I am weak. A mother always laments the loss of a son

Nimai: There is nothing to lament, Mother. I shall bring you the prasadam petals that had previously adorned the lotus feet of our Lord Krsna. That is attainable by Lord Brahma, what to speak of the Vaisnavas. Why mourn for him who takes the infallible shelter of Lord Krsna's lotus feet? Do not discourage Me from this Perfection due to your weakness. I am a pauper, so I seek Lord Krsna's lotus feet.

Saci: O Nimai, my life will remain in my body as long as I can see Your face. Yet, You must go to attend the call of Divine Dispensation.

Nimai: Mother! One whose heart melts in compassion and cries, she is fortunate, for the Supreme Lord, Krsna, blesses her.

Saci: But alas for my daughter-in-law! Oh, how unfortunate she is -surely she will be as if thunder struck!

Nimai: Mother, I shall remain here for today. Then, honoring my commitment to the renounced order of life, I shall leave home, never to return.

Scene Two- At the House of Srivas Thakur

Adwaita: Alas! Alas! What is this we hear? Is it really so - the Gem of my heart, Gauranga Nimai is leaving us?! O Lord, why suddenly this calamity? How can we survive without our very life, our soul?

Srivasa: Come brothers, let us all go and beg Nimai to stay! The life of our soul, our beloved Gauranga Nimai is going from us! How can we live for a moment without seeing Him?

Jagai: Oh alas, Madhai, my brother, we are soon to be bereft of the association of our sweet Lord, Gauranga Nimai!

Madhai: Why should the pristine, moon-like Lord Nimai reside in a place contaminated by the birth of someone as desecrated and despicable as I am? I can only regret - what will become of me? Who will now give me shelter?
(Nimai Pandit enters)

Haridas: Please, what in Goodness' Name, has happened here? Have I committed any offense at the feet of my sweet Lord? Is it for this reason that the Lord is forsaking our company?
Let us all throw ourselves at the lotus feet of the Lord and cry "O Lord, What is happening to us? You are the protector of the poor, be compassionate on us!" Come, let us go tonight - let us hold tight to the Lord's lotus feet!
(Nimai Pandit enters)

All: My Lord, my Lord! Why are You going away from Nadia! We beg You to stay!

Haridas: My Lord! I will not allow You to go to Vrndavana! The gopis in Vrndavan held fast to the wheels of Akrura's chariot, not allowing Lord Krsna to leave; so, also, all of us shall hold You back! Alas! Who can survive when bereft of the life of his life?

Nimai: Kindly listen, O Vaisnava devotees of Lord Hari, I have decided to go to a different lands and distribute the Lord's sublime Holy Names. Living entities everywhere are drowning in the distressful ocean of Nescience. I want to throw down to them the transcendental buoy of the Lord's lotus feet. I can no more bear to see the sorrow of general society!
All of you please glorify the Lord. Do not try to dissuade Me. Take Me in your embrace with a jolly smile. All of you please bless Me so that My yearnings meet success. Come. Come Nitai, taking the Holy Names on Your lips, look to the future. Let Me leave.
(Mother Saci enters)

Saci: O God! Would You let my Nimai become a sanyassi?
(She faints)

Nitai: Oh My Brother, look! Your mother lies on the ground!

Nimai: Avadhoot, why do You distract My intention?
(Saci Devi revives slowly.)

Nitai: Get up, Mother Saci! Put aside your illusion - cry for Krsna and you will get your Nimai!

Nimai: Mother, hold yourself. Truly, I say unto you, here and now, that I shall return here one day.

Saci: Hari, O Hari, my Savior from all danger, be merciful to this miserable mother. (to Nimai) I will not obstruct You if You agree to live in nearby Jagannath Puri. Pilgrims are always going back and forth between here and there, so there is a chance that I will get news of Your well-

being.

Nimai: Mother, of course, I shall ever do as you order. (to devotees) Now, all of you, please, once more chant loudly the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra in order that I may fill My heart with it.

All: Haribol!! Haribol!!
(A barber enters to cut Nimai's hair. A sanyassi holds folded saffron cloth and a danda (staff) for Nimai. The devotees have a wonderful kirtan.)

Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act One - The Birth of Nimai

Scene One - Sin and the Six Vices
(How Lord Caitanya Impacts the Age of Kali #4)

(Sin enters along with her six devilish assistants – Lust, Anger, Greed, Illusion, Madness and Envy. They all say "Bravo! Bravo!" and take their places before Sin's throne as she addresses them)

Sin: As seeds grow to become flower-bearing trees, my pets, so like a seed do I lie in the innermost chamber of the heart of all fallen souls. And, day by day, I develop till I do deliver to each and every individual the fruits and flowers of his own sinful life – misery, disease, confusion, pain and poverty. For the sins of his past, a man suffers, but he is uncontrollably impelled by my force to commit more and more sins. And from these, he suffers in the future and again commits more. My innumerable seeds are indestructible. They are deeply sown and, like irrepressible weeds, give misery to all.
By my design the poor soul who contemplates sense objects develops attachment for them. That attachment leads to lust, and from lust, anger arises... from anger, then delusion... and finally loss of intelligence. And when a man loses his intelligence, he comes more firmly under my grip. **(all applaud)**
Thank you, my expert foremen. How grateful I am that with your assistance my authority has been expanded throughout the universe. My pets, recite to me now what expert means you use to expand my kingdom, and I shall reward each of you as you deserve. **(all speak simultaneously)** Wait, wait, my pets. One at a time, please, one at a time. Now let me see... who shall it be? You begin, O Lust...

Envy: He always gets to start first!

Sin:(claps) Silence, Envy!

Lust:(rises) O Empress Sin, your influence is boundless. Who can escape the enchantment of your web? I am not one to brag, **(others murmur)** but I must admit that it is I who am the greatest enemy of all the living entities!

All: What, you?!

Sin:(claps) Silence! Let him continue.

Lust: Yes, I! It is I, dear Empress, who induces the pure soul to become entangled in your clutches. My work is simple, very simple. Listen, mother, how I do your work to the best of my ability...
The beautiful woman sits in her bedroom, and with her quickly-moving eyes she sees the redness of her own lips in the mirror. And as she brushes her hair, which is black like the wings of a crow, the desires in her mind easily flow.

Seeing her own reflection, her mind becomes delighted, and at any time I whisper in her ear... slowly, slowly I say to that lusty woman: *"Alas, O beautiful-eyed one, why are you sitting here alone, not being cared for? Why don't you attract some young man's mind and bind him up? Go, go! For what reason do you remain here idly? How can you tolerate the pride of these young men? Why not make them cry out in desire? Why not make them all roll at your feet?"* With a steady mind she hears these words. Slightly smiling, she rises and, holding the mirror with her own reflection in front of her, the enchantress runs off to conquer in all directions!!!

When I see laziness in a man, I go to him and say: *"O mystifier of the worlds, what are you doing? Just see – women are dying for you! You are just like a bumble-bee, now go and drink honey from many flowers!"* Hearing my sweet words, the scandalous man begins to think himself the lord of love. And at that moment, the beautiful woman attacks him with the arrows of her glances. In this way, the young man and woman fall down by Lust's deception. In the end, they enjoy poisonous fruits, and the depths of their hearts burn day and night. Thus bound by ropes of attachment, they come under your control... their shouts of remorse never end! In this manner do I, Lust, ever cause the best of men to fall.

Sin:(happily clapping) Beautiful! Beautiful!

Envy: Now me! Let me!

Sin: Wait! All in good time! Speak to me, Anger – what is your business?

Anger: O Sin! All glories unto you! Without you, what would this world be like to live in? Please hear of my exploits on your behalf. Lust's work is simple, he says. I couldn't agree with him more. But my work is thorough. He may capture a man's senses, mind and intelligence, but it is my toxins that pollute his whole body. After Lust does what little he can, his victim gets passed on to me. **(Lust responds with insults)** Then I make the man's gentle voice harsh and loud, his muscles taut, his heart palpitate, his actions uncontrolled. Just see the pauper in my palm, his blood boiling and his face flushed red by my wrath! That soul will not listen, reason cannot find him, patience has deserted him. Only arrogance and pride provoke him, and he turns upon his own beloved wife, children and friends. Being unkind to them, he suffers all the more. O dearest Sin, devastation is my work! You can see the evidence of my work everywhere in the form of enmity: between husband and wife, between brothers, friends and families, between societies, religions and nations. I have men at each other's throats over mere trifles. Then after my brief visit is over, my black shadow, war, arrives! And that's when the real fun begins! **(harsh laughter. The other enemies mimic his laughter sarcastically)** Ah shut up! Shut up!

Sin: Next! Who shall speak next? **(clamor)** Quiet! **(immediate silence)** All right, Greed, go on.

Greed: Of all your foremen, sweet Sin, I truly am the foremost! **(all respond negatively)** Like a faithful gardener, I lavishly water the seeds you so carefully sow! Please hear, Your Majesty, of my qualifications – of which you certainly already know. Whatever there may be within the universe to satisfy

one's senses can never satisfy me. Even though a man has everything, under my influence he wants more. With discontent by my side, I sap the very vitality of human life. Where I reside, rest assured, happiness never dares show her face. My pitiful prisoner, one foot through the gate of hell, thinks: *"So much wealth do I have today, and I will gain more according to my schemes."*
Thus he works hard like an ass day in, day out, and even overtime...
Rushing to work at breakneck speed, full of anxiety, convinced that he is free. But in truth he's working for me!
No matter what he goes through and gets, it will never make amends...
thus he takes to stealing and cheating, even from his friends.
Then they steal from him and, thus oppressed,
they become enemies over a farthing or less.

Let but my sticky fingertips lightly touch the most esoteric philosopher, the most advanced scientist, the most renowned politician, the most brilliant poet, and they become morose, living a life of two extremes: hankering for future gain, and lamenting for past loss.
Ahhh! Just see how I make them all insane!

Illusion: Ho-hum!

Greed: My queen, these are the waters of my reign...

Illusion: Enough!

Greed: ...and the flood has only just begun...

Illusion: Enough!

Greed: ...by my touch, they all become undone!

Illusion: I can't stand any more!

Greed: Too bad!

Sin: Illusion, Illusion, please.

Illusion:(jumping up and interrupting Greed) O Sin! With all due respect, I have heard enough! After all, why does a man endeavor to enjoy himself? And why is he angered when he fails? I ask you why... why is he dissatisfied with his wealth? It is because I, Illusion, have spread my veils. You should know that all beautiful, glorious and mighty sins spring from but a spark of my splendor. **(Sin squirms nervously)** With but a single fragment of myself, I pervade and support all these other petty seedlings. **(other enemies protest vigorously)** Why do I reign supreme?

All: Supreme?!

Illusion: For one reason only: because of my cheerful smile called ignorance. It is due to ignorance, Madame Sin, that men are overcome by your glance. Poor little Lust and Anger simply carry on my work. **(negative response)** And when I make a man want more than what he's due, then only is he susceptible to you, O noble Greed! And why are souls called fallen? Because I cast them

down. And why do they stay down? Because I enshroud them. For every being is born in my grip, overcome by desire and hate.

I have decided for modern man
that life is a complex chemical combination,
that there is no God in control,
and within the body there is no soul.
He thinks that his body made merely
of earthly lifeless elements
is his complete identity.
Poor lost little living entity!

He's unaware that there's a joyful Lord in control,
that within the body, there's a blissful living soul.
You see, they only age in years, but not in knowledge,
for I hide reality behind my shawl,
for the detriment of one and all.
Good queen, you know this world to be
a place of death, happiness has no place here.
But for them, this truth is wholly unclear.

They are blind, for within their minds, I pit hope against hope. "Things will be better," they think, "and the future is so bright."

That's my master plan...
to keep them locked up in this sham.

Sin: Your master plan?

Illusion: Well, I didn't mean...

Sin: That is quite enough now, Illusion. Don't let yourself get carried away.

Illusion: But my Queen, I haven't...

Sin: Sit down, Illusion! Sit! Good. Now, Madness, you've been ominously quiet and reserved. Let's hear of your play.

Madness: I, reserved? How very droll.

Sin: Why not let us into the labyrinth of your mind?

Madness: Excuse me if I seem a bit reserved. A real hero shows prowess by his actions, not high sounding words. **(negative response)** Allow me to quietly reveal my seductive plot. Man is mortal; this statement seems quite sound, you must admit. **(responses: "So what else is new? Ho-hum!")**

Old folks have died, and he who is a child today,
will sooner or later pass away.
Yet although he knows his destiny to be dust,
he madly accumulate more and more and more,
and becomes a prime target for Illusion, Greed, Anger and Lust.
And why? Because he cannot help himself... he must!

All: He must?

Madness: He must! Do you hear? And this is the substance of my gift... This is what I, Madness, contribute. So, Mistress Sin, you can see that I'm the best, I trust.

Sin:(to Madness) Hmmm. Perhaps. After all, there is method to your madness. Well now, Envy. Envy?

All: Hey Envy!!!

Envy: Huh? Who, me?

All: Yes, you!

Sin: At last it is your turn to beat the drum. But I must caution you don't be too malicious!

Envy: Who, me?

All: Yes, you!

Envy: (intensely eager) To begin with, O Queen, let me ask: From which tree do the seeds of sin come? **(all respond in favor of themselves)** Wrong! From me! **(all freak out)**
There you see! Ha! The desire-tree of Envy!
Without me, men would live peacefully,
he'd not care if another was more opulent than he.
None would strive to accumulate more and more,
and then, Madness, where would you be?
Lust, Anger, Greed, Illusion and Madness all envy me! **(wild response)**
They know that only my call
lures the soul to want what is not his
and makes him fall **(faint *kirtan* is heard in distance)**
and it all begins when he envies God!!!
That's why I will never let it end,
for my roots are stronger than an iron rod.
And nothing in this world can ever make them bend. (dissention increases)

Sin: My dear dutiful deputies, you have profusely propagated my authority, leaving no secure sanctuary for Conscience, Renunciation and Devotion.
(A *kirtan* is heard offstage in the distance, and this does not stop for the rest of the play. The actors must shout over it)
What is that! What in hell is that!? Am I to hear this?
The singing rents the sky as if a thunder peel. Speak up, Vices! How have you performed your task? How long must I wait before I see such joyous jubilation chase away forever?
Shhh, quiet. Listen! What's that?

All: What's what?

Sin: That sound!

All: What sound?

Sin: That! That horrible sound. It sounds like music...

All: Music?

Sin: Yes, happy music!

All:(they stand up) Yes, yes it is!

Sin: All right, who's responsible for this?

All: Honestly, Sin, we didn't...

Sin: I warn you – if this is someone's idea of a joke, I'm not amused! I want it stopped. I want it stopped immediately! **(silence, no one moves)** Well, someone do something. Someone go out there and tell them to stop it this instant!
(Kali enters)

All: Kali! Kali!

Sin: O Kali! How wonderful to see you, my dear! **(*kirtan* is more noticeable in background)**

Kali:(sadly) O my Queen, my poor Queen...

Sin: What is the matter, Kali?

Kali:(distraught, pacing back and forth) I never thought it could happen... Brace yourself, my queen, I have bad news.

Sin: Bad news?!

Kali: Yes. It's all over! Our doom is in the making!

Sin: Our doom?

Kali: Yes! They are chanting and spreading those horrible names!

Sin: What names?

Kali: You know – those names!

Sin: What are you talking about?

Kali: Must I spell out everything for you? The Holy Names of Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead! They are planting those names in the minds and hearts of everyone, everywhere!

Sin: Oh no! No!

Kali: Our entire empire is quaking!

Sin: But how can that be? We've sown uncountable seeds of sin within their hearts.

All: Yes! Yes!

Sin: And those seeds will kill piety like piercing, poisonous darts.

All: They must! They must!

Kali: Take heed of my warning - Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the Supreme Personality of God has appeared. Alas, all is ended; your tyranny is terminated!

Sin: Why? What can Caitanya do to me?

Kali: Caitanya's very birth has caused the chanting of Hare Krsna to be performed everywhere at once! Stop and think, what will the condition be when Caitanya, taking the order of sannyasa, roams the surface of this Earth, distributing the Holy Name to one and all?

Sin: Ah yes, that explains the hubbub outside! See, the moon is gone into an eclipse, being gobbled by Rahu. This confusion is common - always, during an eclipse, the people become superstitious and pray. Nothing to fear - their piety will be swept away by the Vices!

Kali: What can the Vices do? The Vices cannot affect a devotee of Krsna. The Vices are mere sycophants of Caitanya, Who Himself has appeared in the mood of a devotee.

Sin: Tell me, O Master, which person's heart is not inflicted with lust, wounded by Cupid's arrows? Whose mind is not paralyzed by rage, enslaved by greed or covered by illusion? Who is there who has not danced to the puppetry of vanity or has found envy detestable?

Kali: You seem not to know the nature of the Devotees. All the Vices are like servants to them. Lust will remain engrossed in his service and will act like a horse to carry the devotee back to the spiritual world. Anger will be utilized to subdue the atheists. What will greed do? The Devotee will cultivate a greed for reaching his goal of Pure Love! He will shed incessant tears at the lotus feet of his Lord and wash away illusion. Intoxicated with the pride of being a servant of the Supreme Lord, he will serve Him with loving devotion. Envy will find no shelter in the Devotees. They envy no one and thus they are dear to everyone.

Conquering the six Vices, the Devotee will get his propagation work done. Once he has seen the sublime beauty of his Lord, he will not hanker for the evanescent. He will remain fixed in his transcendental service to the Lord and have the Vices wait on him with folded palms!

Sin: First, we shall see how he weathers the storm of youth!

Kali: For he who has surrendered his life and youth to the Supreme Truth, submission to Krsna is the essence of his life. Then, who is so foolish as to contest with him? To teach self-surrender, Spiritual Love Personified has appeared as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu! At long last, your poisonous fangs have been broken! Come to the house of Jagannath Misra and see for yourself. Clear your doubts, Sri Radha and Sri Krsna have descended in one body, in one form, that of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Sin: Very well, if by God's grace, the Vices have been defeated, then through Logic and Science I shall again establish my dominion.
Kali: Logic is easily drowned in the current of love of Godhead.
I can foresee the waves of love becoming too high for Science, who will then slip away in mortification. If you were, by chance, to get a glimpse of that enchanting Krsna, his charm would melt your heart of stone, too. Come, you may as well embrace defeat from the start. Before us is the house of Jagannath Misa where Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is adventing.

Sin: Alas! Who shall I confide my sorrow to? I control all the worlds and yet I have to bear with all this harassment. Let us go and see Who has been born.

Kali:(alarmed) O my consort Sin, if you wish to stay with me, I urge you not to go!!! **(to kirtan party)** Stop it! Stop it! My head is about to burst!!! **(He sits down as if he has a great headache.)**

Sin:(to herself) Until this happened, our might was immeasurable! How could they deal such a blow? I must know! I must go... I must see how it could be so! **(She turns, sees Kali is not watching and runs off.)**

Kali:(immediately looks up and sees she's gone) Wait! Wait! Sin! You'll be entrapped by our foe! **(He runs after her.)**

Scene Two - The Forest

(Conscience, Renunciation and Devotion are seen on a forest path. Kirtan is still heard offstage.)

Conscience: Say, O good lady, for what further purpose should I remain on this Earth? Where shall I find my place of rest? I have been for so long now wandering. I enter each house with great expectation and leave with only frustration. Now, I have fled to this mountain sanctuary. I saw Yogis in deep meditation and felt a ray of hope - but now, when I think back on that particular incident, my heart shudders! Everyone, even the Yogis are totally submerged in their senses and are servile to Lust, Envy and the rest. Arrogance is kept long-locked inside, despising others yet making a show of being more advanced than others. They claim that their advancement is by their own efforts alone, yet without the grace of God, how is any advancement possible? Seeing all this I fled - ask my companion, Renunciation - he was with me.

Renunciation: Good lady, it is true what Conscience says! There I beheld a Yogi with long, matted hair, sitting with eyes closed. As we came closer, hearing our footsteps, he peered through the corner of his eye, thinking,

"Who is that coming? Is he going to give me some money?" So greedy that he is never satisfied with anything; he grouses his frustration aloud. Having enough, we immediately left him.

Conscience: Then hear another strange story. A little further from that yogi's cave, we came across a Philosopher - lost in deep thought. He had renounced the material world of sense objects, a victor over the Vices, always meditating on how to benefit the society at large and as to what will make them happy. But alas, he himself is in the deepest of ignorance! He is convinced that modern science and technology are a sturdy foundation of human society. He would shout, "Electricity is our slave, to act at our finger-snap. The steam engines hurtle past, leaving everything behind. Science is success, technology is triumph!!" With a slash of his pen, he pompously writes that God is obsolete! Terrified, I ran from him.

Renunciation: There are still others who, under the cover of "Tantra" are giving support to irreligious practices. Rejecting sane social etiquette, they eat meat, take intoxicants and immorally enjoy women. How is it possible to stay on a planet with such as these?

Devotion: Our joyous days are here once again. Throw away your worries, the Supreme Lord, Hari, Who roams the Spiritual Abode of Goloka, has appeared. On seeing the misdirected population of Kali Yuga, our Supreme Lord has descended in a most novel incarnation. In His present form of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu He manifests the sublime loving dalliances of Sri Radha and Sri Krsna. He has come with the Holy Name that melts even the heart of stone. He will inundate all abundantly in ambrosia. Externally, He is Radha with Krsna hidden inside, He manifests an exchange of miraculous mellows never experienced in the previous ages. Glorious! How fortunate are the people of the Age of Kali to be able to participate in a grand festival of the Holy Names! Now, one can easily attain that which is so rare - Love of Krsna. Even birds and beasts are drowned in the love of Krsna; they vibrate with the divine sound of Hari! Hari!

(Kirtan becomes louder)

Listen! Give audience! What a joyful sound the Chanting of the Holy Names! The Earth reverberates with the roaring waves of the Ocean of Mercy - Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu! Oh, how fortunate is the world today; Lord Gouranga has appeared in Nadia!

The Bhakta Yogis, once clinging to a faceless, formless idea of God - they are now totally submerged in meditation upon the name, form, personality and pastimes of Krsna! The eight Mystic Perfections, unable to tempt them, stand waiting to serve them with folded palms.

Look! Look! The Vidyahara Angels are coming in their spaceships to see Sri Caitanya! The sages and wisemen are coming, overwhelmed with the ecstasy of love of Godhead! Look around you - everyone is dancing with upraised arms, singing the glories of the Supreme Lord Hari. There is no other sound; what a gushing exuberance! All the three worlds are resounding with this ecstatic chanting! Now who would want to go to Goloka Vrndavana in the Spiritual World? Rather, we would stay here and swim in the blissful ocean of love of Godhead! Let us hasten, singing the Name of Hari, we shall see Madanmohan,

Krsna!

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Everyone leaves. The Vidyahara angels, sages and wisemen enter in disguise. Everyone sings the Hare Krsna mantra.)

Vidyahara: My Lord, Kesava, kind to the down-trodden, roams the forest groves of Vraja Vrndavana. Madhava, Manomohan, Muralidhari! Let us all sing Hari! Haribol! Sri Gauranga Hari!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Narrator: On the full moon eve of the month of Phalguna, during a lunar eclipse, the Lord appeared. Because of the eclipse, everyone was chanting *"Hari Hari!"* in great jubilation. Therefore, Lord Chaitanya appeared after first causing the appearance of the Holy Name.**(*Kirtan* party enters and chants *"Haribol!"* Mother Saci carries out baby Nimai. Jagannath Mishra is also there.)**

Scene Three - The Home of Jagannatha Misra

Misra: (to priest) Please hear my extraordinary experience: I saw a bright light emanating from my wife. She had informed me, some days before, that day and night she hears blissful celestial chanting and the tinkling ankle bells of celestial dancers. Sometimes, her room became pervaded by the sweet fragrance of unknown flowers. Other times, when she was unmindful, soft incantations would become audible, as if someone was coming in and out of the room. She carries a child in her womb, thus she feels every reason to be alarmed, for she does not know the import of all these supernatural happenings.
Hearing my wife narrate this, I suddenly remembered my own mysterious dream:
It was toward the end of the night - I was in deep slumber when suddenly the room was flooded with illumination and I felt my body tingle with exhilaration. Effulgent beings surrounded me - dancing, singing and clapping their hands. One addressed me thus, "Due to your immeasurable good fortune, the Supreme Personality of God will appear through you and remain in this material world." Explain to me, O scholar, how your astrological calculations explain these occurrences.

Priest: There is very little that I can make out; the symptoms are all so wonderful! I saw the child's astrological chart; He has taken birth under an auspicious astrological sign, bright as the sun. Yet, according to my calculations, if He was blackish in color, I would have easily declared Him to be an incarnation of the Supreme Lord, Narayana. Excepting His complexion, all the symptoms of an incarnation are clearly indicating in His horoscope. His color confuses me.
(Bhajan by angels is heard by Jagannath Misra and priest. Priest dances, too.)

Misra: Please tell me, what do you see in my son? Why do you dance and sing the names of Hari in this manner? I have lost eight daughters and this causes

me consternation. Now, in my newborn son, I see such auspicious symptoms that I wonder whether He will remain to light my last days. Kindly tell me, why do you glorify the Supreme Lord Hari so profusely?

1st Sage: Have the residents of Navadvip lost their vision? I see before me the Supreme God Incarnate and yet the citizens here have no change of mentality.

Priest: Without a doubt, He has all the signs of the Supreme Absolute. Yet, I am bewildered as to why He appeared with a golden hue.

2nd Sage: How wonderful; His pastimes! Combinedly He has appeared as Sri Radhika and Sri Krsna in this incarnation. The Supreme Lord has advented along with His internal Hladini potency and has thus appeared as the very embodiment of this pleasure potency, Hladini Sakhi. As Gouranga, He includes all of His diverse potencies. Even the impersonal Brahman is included within His personal form.

Vidyahara: What necessitates such elaborate arguments and elucidations? Look how beautiful Gouranga's form is! See how it steals the very mind. Has anyone in all the three worlds seen such exquisite sweetness? The heart melts, the mind is numb, awestruck. The Lord is resplendent with the golden hue through and through, within as well as on the outside and everywhere He goes! The Crest Jewel, Lord of All Excellences, has come and freed the Universe of all sin. So sing! Let us all sing!
(Bhajan by Vidyaharas.)

Scene Four - Baby Nimai Cries

Saci: O Jagannath Misra Prabhu, come see the marks on the floor! Have you ever seen anything like it?

Jagannath: Saci, these footprints! The marks of Lord Vishnu are here - the flag, thunderbolt, conch shell, disk and fish!

Saci: How is these marks possible in our home?

Jagannath: Certainly, Child Krsna is within the Shaligram Sila. Taking his childhood form He is playing within the room.

Saci: How can this be? Oh, there is Nimai, waking up for nap. It's alright, Nimai, here sit with me.

Jagannath: I can't believe that child Krsna has blessed our home! What have we done to get such mercy?

Saci: Jagannath Misra Prabhu, come quickly and see!

Jagannath: What?!? Look at Nimai's feet! Here are the marks we saw on the floor. How is this possible? Wait - I will call the astrologer, Nilambhara Cakravarti. He is an expert astrologer and can tell us what this means.
(Jagannath Mishra exits. Nimai is center stage, some ladies enter and surround Nimai, doing various activities. Nimai begins crying)

Saci: Oh no, don't cry, little one!

1st Lady: It's alright, little Nimai. **(Nimai cries louder. Mother Saci begins singing *Hare Krishna,* He stops)**

2nd Lady: Oh look, He stopped crying!

1st Lady: Yes, when you chant, He stops.

2nd Lady: Oh, but look, He's starting to cry again! **(Nimai cries)**

1st Lady: Quickly, let's chant again!
(They chant, Nimai gradually stops crying)

2nd Lady: Oh good, He stopped again.

1st Lady: I think Nimai is playing a game with us.
(Nimai begins crying again)

2nd Lady: You're right! Now we must always chant the *maha-mantra!* **(they all chant and Nimai smiles)** Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare

Narrator: In this way the Lord was showing that His life's purpose was to spread this Sankirtana movement.

Scene Five - Nimai Eats the Brahmana's Offering

Narrator: On another occasion, the Lord ate the foodstuffs of a Brahmana guest three times, and later, in confidence, the Lord delivered that Brahmana from material engagement. **(knock at door)**

Jagannath: Sacidevi! Someone is at the door. Please go see who it is. **(Mother Saci opens the door.)**

Saci: Oh, just a moment, I'll go get my husband.

Jagannath: Hello, oh my dear Brahmana. Please come in. You must be tired from travelling from one place of pilgrimage to another. Please sit down. Sacidevi, please go get this Brahmana something cool to drink.
(to Brahmana) You must have traveled very far and be very tired. Please rest yourself in my home.

Brahmana: I have been touring all over the country, travelling from one place of pilgrimage to the next and now I have reached Navadvip. You are so kind to have taken me in.

Jagannath: Certainly, a devotee of Lord Vishnu is welcome in my house anytime. Is there anything else I can get for you?

Brahmana: Oh, no. I am fine, thank you, but would it be possible to have some ingredients to prepare an offering for my Gopal Deity.

Jagannath: Yes, yes. Sacidevi, please go get our guest some milk, rice and sugar so that he can prepare sweet-rice for his Gopal Deity. Here, sir, you may have this room for your worship. **(they exit)**

Brahmana: Thank you. Hmmm, let's see ... I will make an altar over here.now. Now, I will prepare some sweet-rice. **(he mixes, etc., and sings *"Govinda Jaya Jaya, Gopala Jaya Jaya, Radha Ramana Hari, Govinda Jaya Jaya."*)** Now, it is ready to offer. **(he bows down and begins to offer *"Namo brahmanya devaya..."* when Nimai approaches and eats the *bhoga.* Brahmana looks up.)** What? Why did you do that? You have spoiled my offering! Where is your father? Jagannath Mishra! Jagannath Mishra!

Jagannath: What is it? What is wrong?

Brahmana: Your son has spoiled my offering! He has taken it before I was through!

Jagannath: Oh, I am very sorry! Nimai! You shouldn't have done a thing like that. Come with me and play in the other room. Leave the Brahmana alone, to worship his Deity.

Brahmana: Thank you. Oh well, children are innocent. I'll do it again. **(the Brahmana prepares again as before. When he begins to offer, Nimai again eats the *bhoga.* The Brahmana looks up)** What? Not again! You naughty boy! You've spoiled my offering again! Innocent or not you cannot eat the offering before it is offered.
(calls) Jagannath Mishra! Your son has done it again. He has spoiled my offering again!

Jagannath: I can't understand it, Nimai never acts this way. This time, I will put Nimai to bed! It is late so I am sure He will not bother you anymore.

Brahmana: Alright, I'll try again. Let me make the sweet rice again. Again it is ready to offer.**(He repeats the same procedure. Nimai comes in and eats the *bhoga*)** No, no! Not again! What has been done? What has been done? I guess Lord Vishnu does not want me to eat today!

Narrator: Seeing the Brahmana in such an agitated state the Lord revealed His form as Krsna and spoke to the Brahmana as follows:

Nimai: You asked Me to come and eat so I did.

Brahmana: This is no ordinary talk; You say I asked You to eat?

Nimai: If you had not invited Me, why should I eat your rice?
My dear Brahmana, formerly I was the son of Mother Yasoda. At that time, you were a guest in the house of Nanda Maharaja and I disturbed you in the same way. I am very much pleased with your devotion, therefore I am eating the foodstuff that you have prepared.

Brahmana: My dear Lord, please forgive my offenses! I did not recognize You.

You are the Supreme Lord, Narayana, in the guise of a boy. Again You have appeared, my Lord, how wonderful is Your birth and unparagoned pastimes. Your activities are a joyful festival for the devotees. O Lord, remove my illusion! Even as ignorant as I am, Your petite, boyish form, luminous like moonrays, has brought me waves of bliss never experienced before! You have appeared before me, my Lord, out of Your causeless mercy, please sever the knot of my material entanglement and keep me ever in the shade of Your rarely attained Lotus Feet!
(fade out, Nimai leaves)

Nimai: Do not disclose this incident to anyone. Go on in your worship of Me in the form of Gopal.

Brahmana: Oh, Thank you, Lord! Thank you! **(Nimai exits.**
(Jagannath Misra enters the room of his guest. The guest is chanting and dancing in ecstasy)

Misra: Honorable sir, you have not yet taken your meal?

Brahmana: I am fully satisfied, sir Misra. Oh, truly, how very fortunate you are! The Supreme Lord has come as your son! I have eaten *Maha Prasad* - food stuff offered to the Lord and left by the Lord as His mercy! But this foodstuff has fallen from the lips of that Lord! Now, I do not feel any more hunger of thirst.
By the grace of Your son, the entire Universe will become satisfied! I am so overwhelmed by your hospitality, sir; now please offer me one last benediction: both you and your good wife should bless me with the dust from your feet!

Misra: Honorable, sir, please! But all your foodstuff is just lying on the plate

Brahmana: I shall take this Maha Prasad with me and distribute it wherever I go! My dear Misra, you do not seem to fully comprehend as to Who your son, Nimai, really is! Please, call your good wife and partake of this Maha Prasad, too!

Misra: (calls) Saci! Saci! Come and see - what a disaster! Nimai has once again contaminated the food of our guest!
(Mother Saci enters)

Saci: What!? Where did Nimai run off to? I had kept Him sitting in His room! Dear sir, please forgive the child's unknowing offence!

Brahmana: Mother, please hear my story - when I offered the cooked food stuff to my Deity, I felt that He, being pleased, was accepting and eating my offering so I opened my eyes. But, I saw your son eating! At first, I thought little of it but thrice the same feelings and vision occurred! To determine a solution, I entered into meditation and I saw that my Lord had indeed eaten the offering with much satisfaction and that your son is my worshipable Supreme Lord. So, both of you bless me that I may remain with undeterred faith in my Lord. I beg to take your leave now; please do not nurture any uncertainty - the Supreme Object of Worship resides in your home!

(The brahmana leaves.)

Scene Six - Nimai At Home

(Nimai enters and breaks a clay pot. Saci runs in.)

Saci: Nimai, what are you doing? You've knocked over my pot! All the milk is wasted!

Nimai: Watch Me knock over another one!

Saci: Stop! This is terrible! Oh, where is Your father?

Nimai: My father is old and can do nothing to stop me.

Saci: (calls) Jagannath Misra! Would you come here, please?
(Jagannath Misra enters)

Jagannath Misra: What is the difficulty now? I'm trying to study the scriptures! Can't a man study at home anymore?

Saci: Look what Nimai has done!

Jagannath Misra: Nimai!

Nimai: My dear Father, I hope that you will not chastise Me, for if you do I shall break more pots.

Jagannath Misra: Oh dear! What can be done? Whenever we correct You, You become twice as naughty!

Nimai: I am not afraid of chastisement so no one can teach Me anything. No one can correct Me.
(Visvarupa, the elder brother of Nimai enters.)

Visvarupa: Nimai, did You do this? My dear brother, You have made such a mess. Clean it up, immediately.

Nimai: Yes, Sri Visvarupa, I will clean it up. Is there anything else You'd like Me to do?
(all exit as Nimai begins to clean up. music)

Narrator: As Nimai is none other than Sri Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Nimai's elder brother, Visvarupa, is Lord Balarama. From His birth, Visvarupa was completely renounced and exhibited all saintly qualities. Nimai, although listening to neither His mother nor His father, would become meek and humble in the presence of His elder Brother. **(Music)**

Scene Seven - At Advaita Acarya's Ashram

Advaita Acarya: Ah, Visvarupa, please come inside. We are discussing the path of Bhakti Yoga!

Visvarupa: Bhakti is the essence of all Shastra, but people neither teach Bhakti nor practice it.

Advaita Acarya: True, materialistic men find no pleasure in service to Krishna. They are too selfish.

Devotee: And too foolish! The local men in Nadia even laugh at a man just for being a Vaisnava! One foolish fellow said to me,
"If even renounced sannyasis and great yogis performing austerities have to die, then what is the use of your efforts. It is better to collect money and ride on a palanquin with twenty servants running behind. Then at least your name will live on in the history of your community."

Advaita Acharya: They are mad after mundane achievements such as wealth, education and good family. They never chant Lord Hari's Names.

Visvarupa: Their ignorance fills Me with sadness!
(Nimai enters quickly)

Narrator: When Nimai entered the house of Advaita Acharya, all the devotees became stunned. He was bare-chested and covered with dirt from playing. Nimai smiled and glanced all around at the devotees.

Nimai: Brother, come home and eat. Mother has sent Me to bring You home. She's waiting for You.

Devotee: Nimai! His beautiful form has charmed my heart!

Advaita Acarya: I cannot understand Who this Child is! His beauty is beyond compare!

Devotee: His smiling face and darting eyes have captured me. Now I can no longer concentrate on my studies.
(Nimai catches hold of Visvarupa's dhoti and both exit. The devotees follow Them, in a stunned condition, to the door.)

Devotee: Perhaps Nimai is a demigod Who has been sent to bewilder us with His beautiful features.

Advaita Acarya: I cannot say, but I know that He is not an ordinary child! **(music, then Visvarupa enter again)** Visvarupa, You have returned so quickly! Jai! We shall now go to the house of Srinivas Acarya for kirtana.

Visvarupa: Yes, I told my parents that I was fasting and would chant the Holy Names all through the night. **(all exit)**

Scene Eight - The Ashram of Jagannath Misra

Saci: Visvarupa spends all His time with the Vaisnavas. Even while at home, He takes no part in family affairs. Rather, he will study the scriptures and worship Salagram Sila.

Jagannath Misra: Sacidevi, I think it is time to find Visvarupa a wife.

Saci: Well, there are many nice Brahmana families in Navadvip. I have seen girls of marriageable age by the river.

Jagannath Misra: I will begin inquiring. A wife for Visvarupa will have to be very religious and gentle.
(They exit. Visvarupa enters, disturbed at what He has overheard.)

Visvarupa: My parents are going to plan my marriage?! This is terrible news! I have no desire to be entangled in material affairs! I'd rather take sannyasa and live in the forest, meditating always on Lord Krsna. I will leave tonight.
(music)

Scene Nine - The Next Day

Jagannath Misra: Oh, Visvarupa! I feel as though my life has ended! Visvarupa! Where have you gone!?

Saci: Visvarupa! Visvarupa! I cannot go on living without my son!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa! Why have you left us?!
(Devotee neighbors cone running in)

1st Devotee: What's happened? What calamity has befallen you? I've never seen you so upset!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa has left us. He's run away. We were planning His marriage ... now ... I fear he will take sannyasa, the renounced order of life! I will never see Him again!

2nd Devotee: Oh no! Visvarupa! What shall we do! He has always been such a joy to my life! **(He puts his hand on Jagannath Misra's shoulder)** My dear friend, I also feel great pain. I also love Him as a son ... but how will losing ourselves in lamentation help?

Jagannath Misra: (sigh) But ...

1st Devotee: Try thinking about it this way - what Visvarupa has done is glorious. Everyone always knew that someday he would take sannyasa and set out to preach near and far. Just think about how His taking sannyasa has delivered your entire family ...

Jagannath Misra: All I know is the pain of my heart, throbbing in separation. Oh, Visvarupa!

1st Devotee: Calm yourself. Calm yourself. Having one son like Nimai is better than having millions of sons. He has strong faith in Krsna, but He is not the renunciate type. Nimai will always stay with His friends and relatives in the village!

2nd Devotee: Yes, think about Nimai! He will remove all Your suffering! His mere glance is as cooling as the rays of the full moon!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa!

2nd Devotee: We never knew how long He would stay with us.

1st Devotee: Lord Krsna gave us Visvarupa and now the Lord Himself has taken Him back. What can be done! Whatever Lord Krsnacandra desires must certainly occur!
(music. all exit)

Scene Ten

Jagannath Misra: Nimai, come here and help Your Mother.

Nimai: Yes, Father.

Saci: Carry these pots, please.

Nimai: Yes, Mother. May I do anything else to help you?

Jagannath Misra: Since Your brother left, You've become so gentle and well-behaved! **(Jagannath Misra embraces Nimai.)**

Nimai: Father, may I have your permission to go and study?

Jagannath Misra: Yes, certainly, Nimai. **(Nimai leaves)**

Saci: Nimai has changed so much! Now we have nothing but praise for Him. Our neighbors say that no one can match His scholarship or defeat His arguments. He is so serious about His studies, as well.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, and that seriousness is just what frightens me.

Saci: Why? What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: It was Visvarupa's serious study of the scriptures that led Him to take sannyasa. By studying Bhagavad Gita, He learned that not a shred of value exists in material life. If Nimai continues to study, I fear He will follow His brother and take sannyasa.

Saci: (gasp) Nimai is all we have!
Jagannath Misra: If He leaves us, I will die! I must stop His studies! It is better that He remains illiterate!

Saci: But, if He is illiterate, how will He maintain Himself? And who will allow their daughter to marry Him?

Jagannath Misra: Don't worry, Krsna provides for everyone, whether the person is educated or not. And anyway, education doesn't insure wealth.

Saci: What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: Take me for example: We are sufficiently learned, but we don't even have an excess of food in our house. But there are some persons who, without even knowing the Sanskrit alphabet, are able to live in luxury. Everything depends on Krsna.

Saci: But if Nimai doesn't study, what will He do with His time?

Jagannath Misra: Anything He likes ... anything but study the scriptures! **(they exit)**

Narrator: That evening, when Nimai returned from school, He was told that His studies were terminated. Being obedient to His Father's wishes, He remained at home. Nimai didn't complain, but He again resumed His naughty, restless behavior.

Scene Eleven - In the Courtyard

1st Boy: Nimai, are You going to school?

Nimai: Oh no, my brothers, Father has said that I don't have to study. You also should not go; we will play in the sacred Ganges.

1st Friend: Tell me, Friend, why doesn't Your father allow You to study?

Nimai: My elder brother, Visvarupa, took to the life of a renunciate mendicant; my father is afraid that I might also become a sanyassi, so he does not allow me to go to school. Come let us play!

1st Friend: Are you sure that your father will not thrash us?

Nimai: What? We'll simply stay away from him.

1st Friend: Okay, then.

2nd Friend: Then you give the excuses, Nimai.

Nimai: That's all right, I'll do so; but come let's play the pastimes of Krsna.

Song:
Where is my groves of Vrndavan, My loving mother, Yasoda?
Where is Nanda, my father, My dear brother, the strong Balarama?
Where is fair Shymali, Radhe and my enchanting little flute?
Where shall I find another friend like the cowherd boys, Sridhama and Sudhama.
Where is flowing My Yamuna, whose banks I like to roam?
Vamsivata is dear to Me, that is my real home.
I do not see my beloved gopis, they must be somewhere around
Let Me go look for Radhe; how can I stay alone?

I shall not return here anymore.
Now that I have come in a golden hue
I have left my flute to traverse many lands - a beggar with a bowl.

I shal find what love my Radhe has
I shall not return home anymore.

2nd Boy: Nimai, that was a wonderful song!

Nimai: Boys, boys! Come quickly! I have a plan!

1st Boy: Yes, yes. What is it?

2nd Boy: We're ready!

Nimai: Look at those banana trees, they are full of bananas! Let's steal them!

1st Boy: Yeah!

2nd Boy: Alright, that will be easy!

Nimai: And tonight, when it is dark we can tie the doors of our neighbors on all side with rope and in the morning, when they awaken, they will be locked inside!

1st Boy: Let's go fight with the boys in town!

Nimai: No, I know an old lady who lives near here, let's go and smash all her clay pots!

2nd Boy: Very good! Very good!

Nimai: Then we can splash old men at the Ganges River!
(they exit. music)

Scene Twelve - At the River Bank

1st Brahmana: OOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOMMMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

1st Brahmana: What was that? Hmmmm! OOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOMMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

1st Brahmana: There it is again! Hmmmmm! OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMM!

Nimai: (splashes Brahmana and laughs) Ha ha!

1st Brahmana: What? What are you doing? I'm meditating!

Nimai: What is this OM? Chant Hare Krsna! It is unnecessary for you to meditate any longer, Sri Sadhu, as you can see the object of your meditation is now standing before you.

1st Brahmana: You little rascal! I'll teach You!

Nimai: Watch your temper, Sri Sadhu! Remember - you're meditating! Chant Hare Krsna, instead!

1st Brahmana: Chant Hare Krsna, eh? You impudent brat, don't you tell me how to meditate. I'm a dozen years Your elder and if I catch You ... **(He starts to chase Nimai.)**

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: Get out of here right now!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!
(They run about in a circle then Nimai goes off and 2nd Brahmana enters.)

2nd Brahmana: Hello Sivatma, meditating are you?

1st Brahmana: Well, yes, actually I was ... in fact I was almost merged with the Void when I heard a definite loud OM in response and then He splashed me in the face!

2nd Brahmana: Who?! The Void?

1st Brahmana: No, the boy! The boy!

2nd Brahmana: Ohhhh.

1st Brahmana: Then He demanded that I chant some silly mantra ... what was it? Uhhh ...

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: Yes, that's it! Hey, that's Him!

2nd Brahmana: Oh, I know that Boy, who could forget that golden hue? That's Jagannath Misra's son. What was His Name? Ah yes, Nimai! He was born on the night of the eclipse some years ago. So He is a nuisance, eh?

1st Brahmana: He certainly is!

2nd Brahmana: (Calling Nimai over) Shame, shame Nimai! Yes, I know Your name and Your father's too. You belong in school, not running up and down the Ganges taunting sadhus who sit to meditate upon Brahman, throwing water in their faces! You are so disrespectful!

Nimai: But, I am full of respect for those worthy of it - the Ganges, the Holy Scriptures and Krsna's Holy Name, therefore I respectfully request you to Chant Hare Krsna!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!
(Nimai runs off)

1st Brahmana: There He goes again! I think that the boy is stark, raving mad! The eclipse of the sun on the day He was born has had some effect on Him, I'm sure of it.

2nd Brahmana: Yes, someone should be informed. His father is both a scholar and a well respected man of Navadvip. It is indeed unfortunate that one should have such a crazy one for a son. I sympathize!

1st Brahmana: In any case, I'll chase Him away! Get out of here, You unmanageable wretch! Go on, scram ! Get out of here!

Nimai: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(The 1st Brahmana chases Nimai off stage.)

2nd Brahmana: "Ah, such is the age, from the sorrow and strife the Holy Ganges is not exempt. A carnival of demons is abrew, those who conquer passion are too few."

1st Brahmana: There (whew) I gave that Golden Rascal a good chase, even at my age. He won't be coming back soon, thank God!

2nd Brahmana: Sivatma, you should restrain yourself. Stress is not good for a man of your age.

Both: Let's meditate! OOOOOOMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

2nd Brahmana: Oh no He's back!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: This is too much!

2nd Brahmana: You better run, You rascal!

Nimai: (Jumps up from bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!
Both: OH, NO!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: This is too much!

1st Brahmana: I don't believe it! You better run right now!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: You should be arrested!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: Catch Him!

1st Brahmana: Get out of here! Get out of here!
(They chase Nimai off stage.

Scene Thirteen - Disturbing the Young Girls

(Nimai and His friends approach a group of young girls engaged in a religious ceremony.)

Narrator: It was the common practice in Nimai's village for the unmarried girls to worship Lord Siva in hopes of getting a good husband. While they were engaged in their worship young Nimai would come there with His friends and sit among them. Addressing the girls, the Lord Would say:

Nimai: My dear sisters, please give Me all the offerings you have brought for Lord Siva. The Ganges and the Goddess Durga are My maidservants. Even Lord Siva is My servant.
(Nimai picks up garland and puts it on.)

1st Girl: Dear Nimai, You are just like our brother in our village relationship, therefore You should not act like this!
(Nimai grabs the plate of sweets and starts to eat them.The boys laugh. The girls are horrified.)

2nd Girl: Don't take our paraphernalia for worship!

3rd Girl: Don't create a disturbance in this way! I will go to Your mother, You know!

Nimai: My dear sisters, if you give Me all the offerings you have brought for Lord Siva, I will give you the benediction that your husbands will be very handsome. They will be clever, learned and young. Not only that, but will each of you will have seven sons and great wealth! **(The girls smile shyly but externally they rebuke the Lord under the pretense of anger.)**

1st Girl: We do not believe You! Let's go!
(The girls quickly gather up the paraphernalia to leave.)

2nd Girl: What benediction can <u>You</u> give, anyway!?

Nimai: If you are miserly and do not give Me all the offerings, then every one of you will have an old husband and at least four co-wives!!

Narrator: Hearing this supposed curse by Nimai, the girls considered that He might know something uncommon or be empowered by the demigods. Since they were afraid that His curse might be effective, they brought the offerings before Nimai who ate then blessed the girls to obtain their heart's wishes.

1st Girl: Here, Nimai, take these sweets.

Nimai: You will beget seven sons and your larder will be filled with rich

harvest. All your sons will be well educated. **(to 2nd Girl)** Why don't you give us something, too?

2nd Girl: Be away with you! Don't make mischief. I am making this offering to Lord Siva!

Nimai: So, you're not going to give to the brahmanas? You will have to share your husband with four co-wives!

2nd Girl: No no no, don't curse me, Nimai! Here take this.

Nimai: Okay, then! You also will have seven sons who will study the Vedas. All of you listen - I am Visnu; whatever offerings you have brought should be given to Me. If I eat, then your worship is successful. **(to friends)** Here, my dear brothers, you should also take your share.
(Nimai takes the foodstuffs and distributes them to His friends and starts to leave.)

1st Girl: Are You not going to eat anything at all?

Nimai: You carry on, I will get more for Myself.

2nd Girl: Shameless! He has snatched away our offerings again!

1st Girl: No girl can resist Nimai's glances!

2nd Girl: Nimai has spoiled our puja for today, anyway. Here Nimai, tell me if you like this fruit salad I have prepared.
(Nimai eats and eats, passing some remnants to the other boys.)

3rd Girl: Please lie down here in the shade and I will fan You!
(Music)

Nimai: Everyone chant Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

1st Girl: (pointing at 2nd Girl) Say, Nimai, what sort of husband will she have?

Nimai: I don't know, what does she have to offer?

1st Girl: Here, take her offerings.

Nimai: No, she does not even sing Hari Bol, I will not take her offering.

1st Girl: Just see this girl's beautiful face - how do You like her? Do You want to marry her?

Nimai: (to 2nd Girl) Laksmi, let me hear how you chant Hari Bol.

Laksmi: Hari Bol, Hari Bol. But, I will not part with this offering, too.

Nimai: I do not want it. **(to others)** She is not giving Me her offering so I am going away.

Laksmi: No, no, just wait. We will all sing and dance for You!
(Nimai and His friends leave. The girls talk excited amongst themselves until Jagannath Misra enters.)

Scene Fourteen

Brahmana: Oooommmmmmmmm
(Nimai snatches the offering of the Brahmana.)

Brahmana: What!? Put that back, it is for Visnu!

Nimai: Lord Visnu eats through the brahmanas. By feeding Me, you will be able to reach Vaikuntha, the Spiritual Abode of Lord Visnu.

Brahmana: Impudent brat! Do You want a thrashing?

Nimai: Let's see you catch Me. You cannot even race Me to the water's edge!

Brahmana: Rather, if You take the Deity's offering before it is prasad, You will be destroyed.

Nimai: No, you will be destroyed!
(Nimai runs back to His friends. They all run off the stage, then Nimai returns alone.)

Nimai: Oh Me, alone at last! Flow on Mother Ganges - what fools sit upon your banks today? What silly, boy crazed girls with their offerings? What pompous old men holding their breath and for what? So they may **(in a pompous voice)** "float upon the moon like a balloon" or pop! Ha Ha! Oh how they meditate! I think I would pop if all I had to do was sit around each day shouting "OOOOMMM!" Ha Ha! How can anyone think of anything else but Govinda? How can they even breathe without saying His Name - Krsna! Krsna! Krsna!?
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Music)

Scene Fifteen - The Unmarried Girls

1st Girl: He likes you, Laksmi, I know He does!

Laksmi: And I want to marry Him, too. I will put away all my paraphernalia for worshipping Lord Siva and simply wait for Nimai to finish His schooling.
(Jagannath Misra enters.)

Misra: Excuse me, but have you seen my Nimai by the river?

1st Girl: Why, He just left, sir. He was snatching and eating all our offerings to Lord Siva.

Misra: What! Eating the offerings? Which way did that naughty boy go?

1st Girl: No no, do not scold Him! How could He possibly force us if we did not want to give our offerings to Him?

2nd Girl: Everyone loves Nimai, so!

Misra: I know, I know, but it is my duty to chastise Him! Otherwise, how will He learn what is right and what is wrong? Good day, young ladies!
(He hurries on and meets the Brahmana.)

Brahmana: Jagannath Misra, how can I describe your great fortune? What an extra-ordinary personality your son is! It is beyond my capacity to understand! I was offering oblation to Lord Visnu when Nimai came and grabbed it from me! Angrily, I chased after a running Nimai but suddenly, I heard the most wonderful sound of dancing ankle bells! But He had no ankle bells! I thought that I was mistaken, but then I noticed His footprints on the soft earth. The marks of flag, lightning and a cowherd's goad could be clearly seen - I stood for a moment stunned. Visnu or a great personality has appeared do not chastise Him!

Misra: A real wonder! It is so difficult to know what to do. Everyone speaks of Nimai in this way; I cannot understand the reason. I know Him only as my son. His mother also speaks about hearing ankle bells could it be?

Scene Sixteen - At Jagannath Misra's Residence

1st Devotee: (Three devotees enter hurriedly) Saci devi!

Sacimata: Yes, I'm over here.
1st Devotee: Did you hear about Nimai?

Sacimata: Nimai? What happened to Him? Is He all right?

1st Devotee: Is He all right? You should ask about the poor Brahmanas He's been playing tricks on! What a rascal He is!

Sacimata: Oh, thank Heavens!

1st Devotee: Thank Heavens He's playing tricks on the Brahmanas?

Sacimata: No, I didn' t mean that; I'm just happy that nothing has happened to my precious child, Nimai.

1st Devotee: Oh, you can expect something to happen all right.
My brother told me that Nimai pulled Keshava Pandit's legs right out from under him while he was standing in the Ganges River chanting his gayatri mantra, today.

Sacimata: No, not Keshava Pandit! He's always so serious!!

2nd Devotee: And it takes him twice as long to chant gayatri as it does

anyone else!

3rd Devotee: Hush!

2nd Devotee: Well, it's true. That must have been funny!

1st Devotee: It was! My brother said that Keshava Pandit was so mad that his face looked just like a fish because his eyes got so big!!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: What did he do?

1st Devotee: What did who do?

Sacimata: Keshava Pandit. He must have ran after Nimai?

2nd Devotee: No one ever catches Nimai. He's too fast.

1st Devotee: Of course he tried to run after Nimai, but he didn't get very far. He was huffing and puffing before he'd run even ten feet! You should have seen him!

2nd Devotee: I wish I could have been there!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: You girls should not speak so of your elders

2nd Devotee: Yes. Oh look, here's Rupa!

Sacimata: Hello Rupa. What brings you out here?

Rupa: I just wanted to drop off some mangoes from our garden.
(Rupa hands over a sack.)

Sacimata: How nice, thank you!

Rupa: Is Nimai here?

Sacimata: No, He's not back from bathing yet.

2nd Devotee: You told me that you had to help your mother sew for the market on Sunday.

Rupa: Well, I do. Weren't you going to make butter, today?

2nd Devotee: I did, I'm doing it I mean I'm almost done.

1st Devotee: It's obvious that your son is like Cupid, Saci devi. He has captured all our hearts.

Rupa: Did you hear how Nimai stole Manu's offering, yesterday?

1st Devotee: I heard about it from my brother.

2nd Devotee: I didn't hear about it at all, tell me.

Rupa: Manu had his eyes closed and Nimai crept up and grabbed the whole offering he was making - the laddus, the sweet rice, the garland - everything! Nimai even started to eat the sweets as He was running away.

3rd Devotee: Did you ever hear of such a trick!

2nd Devotee: Oh, that's not all. While Manu was chasing Him, Nimai kept yelling back, "You've called Me and I have come, why are you so angry?" And Nimai was laughing the whole time!

All: (laughter)

3rd Devotee: I thought you didn't hear about it.

2nd Devotee: Well, I may have heard part of it.

3rd Devotee: He's so bad!

2nd Devotee: Do you think He'll get a reaction for being so naughty?

1st Devotee: You know, Saci devi, Nimai stays in the water until past two o'clock every day; that can't be good for His health.

2nd Devotee: No, of course not.

Rupa: Saci Mata, your son has been behaving badly to us girls, lately when we go to bathe in the Ganges.

2nd Devotee: You won't believe the mean tricks that He's been playing.

Sacimata: Oh, dear!

Rupa: Yesterday, we saw Him sneak up behind Chintamani and yell "HARI BOL!" right in her ear!

2nd Devotee: He frightened her so that I thought she was going to faint!

Rupa: And that was after He took all the fruits and flowers we'd brought to the Ganges to use in our puja and threw them all over the banks!

2nd Devotee: Who does Nimai think He is, a prince or something?

1st Devotee: Actually, all these naughty pranks of His remind me of the pastimes of Gopal Krsna in Vrndavan.

Rupa: Saci devi, you really must discipline your child! He broke my Mother's butter pot again this week!

1st Devotee: See? Just like Gopal!

Sacimata: Perhaps it was someone else.

Rupa: No, it was Nimai. I saw Him running behind our house.

Sacimata: I know He's mischievous and I have spoken to Him. I don't know why He does the things He does, truly I don't.

Rupa: He should be punished.

1st Devotee: He needs to be taught a lesson.
(Another devotee enters.)
Syama! I didn't expect you until later. Why are you dressed so funny? Whose clothes do you have on?

Syama: I don't know.

1st Devotee: You don't know whose clothes you're wearing?

Syama: Honestly, I don't. I just came back from bathing. Nimai switched all the clothes. We had to put on whatever we could find. When we chastised Him He said that we had better be careful or He would curse us to have old husbands with four co-wives.

2nd Devotee: Oh, Saci devi, can Nimai really do that!?

3rd Devotee: Four co-wives? Oh no!

1st Devotee: He really has outdone Himself today.

Rupa: Well, Saci Mata, what are you going to do?

1st Devotee: Mark my words, He'll become a dacoit of some kind if you're not careful!

Rupa: Some of the Brahmanas are really mad; my Pita said so.
I heard that they are coming over to talk to Jagannath Misra this every day.

Sacimata: You are right. Nimai must be taught a good lesson.
I've been patient until now, but I see that He must be severely punished.

1st Devotee: What will you do to Him?

2nd Devotee: You won't punish Him too hard will you?

3rd Devotee: After all, He's just mischievous.

Sacimata: Yes, that's true. He would never really hurt anybody.

Syama: It was really funny when no could find their clothes!
Keshava Pandit had to wrap a pink sari around himself! He looked so

humorous!!

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Look, there is Keshava Pandit running by now!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs by. He looks very embarrassed.)

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Have you ever noticed how Nimai's eyes dance when He's being naughty?

All: Oh, yes!

3rd Devotee: His smile is like sweet nectar!

All: Yes! Just like nectar!

2nd Devotee: You won't be too hard on Him, will you, Saci devi? I mean, boys will be boys

3rd Devotee: Yes, don't be too hard on Him.

Rupa: Look, there's Nimai! He's coming down the road!

2nd Devotee: Just see his innocent face! He couldn't possibly have done anything wrong!

Rupa: Let's go out and see Him!

2nd Devotee: I thought you had to go back and help your Mata.

Rupa: I will, I will!

2nd Devotee: You just came here to see Nimai!

Rupa: So did you!

2nd Devotee: I never said I didn't.
(Nimai enters their company.)

Rupa: Nimai, I brought you some mangoes!

Syama: I've brought you some sweets. They have coconut in them; I just made them for you today!
(Nimai, Rupa and Syama move away from the others.)

2nd Devotee: How my heart beats every time I see Nimai's face!

3rd Devotee: I thought it was just mine that did that!

2nd Devotee: Who is this boy who has captivated our minds so?

3rd Devotee: He's such a rascal, but at every moment that I don't see Him,

it feels like it's been a lifetime!

1st Devotee: How fortunate we are that Mother Saci's beautiful golden Child graces our village with His pastimes!

2nd Devotee: Look, there goes Keshava Pandit again!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs through again, looking embarrassed. Everyone laughs. Bhajan.)

Scene Seventeen - At The Garbage Dump

Narrator: From morning 'til night, Nimai would play and cause mischief. Day after day, He made trouble but Jagannath Misra would not chastise Him. Then, one day, Nimai climbed upon a huge pile of discarded pots and told the boys to call His Mother to the spot ...

Boys: (calling) Mother Saci! Mother Saci!
(they exit, in a moment Mother Saci runs on)

Saci: Nimai! What are You doing sitting there? Get down! Don't You know that is not a proper place to sit?

Nimai: Mother, since you have not sent Me to school, I've forgotten what is right and what is wrong.

Saci: Your clothes have become dirty. Get down quickly!

Nimai: Without an education, I am unable to realize the difference between clean and dirty.

Saci: Please don't joke with me. These pots are contaminated and You're sitting in an impure place. Climb down immediately!

Nimai: This place where I sit is impure? Even if it is impure, wherever I sit becomes pure. All the Holy Places and the Ganges River reside wherever I am.

Saci: Why are You speaking like this? Please get down.

1st Neighbor: What is happening? Nimai, what is the matter?

Nimai: My Mother and Father will not allow me to study, therefore I am sitting here and I will not get down.

2nd Neighbor: (to Saci) Why do you forbid Nimai to go to school.

Saci: It is the will of His father.

2nd Neighbor: You cannot allow Nimai to grow up a fool. Come Child, get down and we shall speak to Your father.
(Nimai climbs down, all exit, music)

Scene Fifteen - At Jagannath Misra's Ashram

2nd Neighbor: Dear friend, please don't forbid Nimai to study. Whatever Lord Krsna desires will come true. We cannot control destiny with our meager plans. Discard your fears, and do what is right.

1st Neighbor: You are very fortunate that your son desires to learn. Choose an auspicious day and have Nimai initiated with the sacred thread. Let the Boy again study.

Jagannath Misra: You are my dearest friends and my elders. If all of you insist, I will agree.

3rd Neighbor: Your child is not an ordinary boy. Keep Him close to your heart with great care.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, I will. Thank you for coming. Hare Krsna!
(They all exit.)

Narrator: Thus Nimai, the Supreme Lord of Vaikuntha, enjoyed His own transcendental pastimes and, with His father's permission, He joyfully returned to His studies. Soon He was known as Nimai Pandit, a teacher of grammar who used the scriptures brilliantly in His lessons.

Saci: My lord, I do not understand, what more will the future bring? Visvarupa has long since left us for the life of a renunciate and now my hopes of always having Nimai close by are dwindling. What's more - day and night, from nowhere seemingly, I still hear hymns and mantras in the air!

Misra: I also fail to grasp these happenings. Nimai is so restless and, on certain days when I take Him to task, heavenly personalities appear to me at night to dissuade me from chastising Nimai further. They say, "Your son, Nimai, is the One who will finally dissipate the despondency of this world. He has incarnated amongst humans to spread the Holy Names of the Lord in every home in every town."
My heart trembles when I think about the future - will Nimai, like Visvarupa, also leave Navadvip to become a wandering holy man? These are difficult times, but this thought increases my anxiety.

Scene Eighteen - The Astrologer's Visit

Astrologer: (examining Mother Saci's hand) You are very fortunate, Mother Saci, I have never seen such wonderful omen on the person of any lady!

Saci: Sir, how do you call me blessed? I have miscarried eight daughters. Next, my son, Visvarupa, became a wandering mendicant; only God knows where he is now. Now, my youngest child madly roams about, declaring that He is Visnu. Sir, if you could conjure up some means to steady this boy's mind, then I shall sell myself to your feet. **(Nimai runs in)** Father, see Him now! Looking like a madman, He has burst into the house, considering no one!

Astrologer: Is this your son? Let's see, **(to Nimai)** where is Your right hand? Mother, you were calling the boy mad, but with the birth of this son, Your forefathers, as well as the entire universe is purified.

Nimai: Oh, A priest! Let me see what you have in your bundle!

Saci: Shame! My dear, must you be so naughty? Offer your respects to the learned astrologer!

Nimai: Dear sir, if you are actually an astrologer, let Me hear you tell Me what I was in my previous birth.

Saci: Just hear His insane ravings, sir!

Astrologer: No, Mother, these are not insane murmurings, for I have already thoroughly researched your son's astrological chart! **(to Nimai)** In Your previous birth, Nimai, You were a cowherd boy.

Nimai: What piety gave Me a brahmana birth?
Astrologer: My Lord, only by Your mercy have I been able to recognize You and it is by Your grace that my learning has not gone to waste! You are far beyond the realm of sin and piety, You have appeared by Your own sweet will!

Nimai: Well then, I am going to snatch away your bag; you could not correctly answer Me!
(Nimai takes the Astrologer's bag away.)

Saci: You woeful imp! You don't have respect for even a worshipable priest?!
(Nimai returns the bag.)

Nimai: Because you are scolding Me, I will go and contaminate Myself by sitting upon the dirty pots!
(Nimai starts to leave.)

Saci: What are You doing? Heavens Above! Wait! If You do that then I will not give You anything to eat today!

Nimai: Is that so? No food today? I will certainly sit on the deity altar!
(Nimai takes the deity of Lord Visnu off the altar and sits there.)

Song:
Sing Haribol, swing, swing, swing
Sri Radha Krsna swing
Shyam swings with Radha, on His left a blue saffire
And flashing molten gold. Beauty is unable to control itself and hold.
The gopi damsels paint Vrndavana in many-shaded hues
Throwing colored powder to their friends.
Rosy-red Radhe, bluish-tinted Madan Mohan
Oh what a joyous tumult, clapping their hands in glee
Hoist the flag of the Lord's Holy Name and sing "Hari!" in harmony.
Sari and Sukha, the parrots, have joined with a very merry sound
The bumble bee buzzes, flying to the blossoming lotus pond.
See how the peacocks prance, plumes nicely arranged
The flower buds peep and sway
Jubilant Yamuna melts, her water gushing away
The sky is filled with the sound of "Haribol!"

Swing sing Haribol
Swing, swing, swing
It is time for spring
The festival of colors has come
Radha's and Krsna's festival has come.

Scene Six - Later

(Jagannath Misra enters)

Saci: Just see the disaster! Your son has become contaminated by touching the dirty pots and then sat Himself there on the altar of the Supreme Lord Visnu. My household will surely be finished! Oh Nimai, what have You done by acting in such a preposterous way!?

Misra: Very well. Nimai, I will have to punish You.
(Nimai runs away. Gangadasa Pandit enters.)

Gangadasa: Dear Misra, where are you stalking off to so angrily? I saw Nimai in flight; are you going to punish Him?
Misra: My dear gentleman, it seems that my son has turned out to be an atheist! He sat on the Lord's altar!

Gangadasa: This is not unusual. As an educated parent, you protest, as it is not a polite behavior. Intelligence is judged often by the degree restlessness or agility of the mind. This later converts to profundity by the weight of proper learning. Nimai possesses an exceptional intellect - what more can I say? You should sit with Him to hear Him read one day; you will find this out for yourself.
You keep Him locked up like a cretin because you are afraid that He will learn renunciation. You do not act like His well-wisher, but more like His enemy. You are wrong to wait until He comes of age, for age without education is a burden. Give your son to me, I shall look after Him and return to you a learned scholar!

Misra: I shall soon accept your advice, sir, but first let Nimai receive His *upavita*, the sacred thread. Then, later, I will follow your instructions. Excuse me, I must go and find out where that mischief-maker has gone.

Gangadasa: Control yourself, sir Misra! Do not frighten your son; one who possesses a beastly nature is addicted to excessive punishment. Your son is of novel intellect; retribution will drive Him in the wrong direction.
Please introduce me to this brahmana, your guest.

Astrologer: I am Nilambhara Chakravarti, an astrologer.

Gangadasa: Very well! Have you made a proper study of the Vedic scriptures?

Astrologer: I know something from the instructions of my teacher.

Gangadasa: Good, then tell me - who am I?

Astrologer: There is no need to do an astrological calculation in your case;

I have already guessed from your speech that you are a teacher. Your fate is very good. You will acquire consummate fame in this world by tutoring this young Nimai.

(to Jagannath Misra) My dear Misra, please consider my submission, do not regard your son as an ordinary boy, seeing Him with a mundane vision. He is the supreme incarnation, appeared as the helmsman to ferry everyone across this ocean of nescience! By the grace of my Spiritual Master, my calculations are never proved wrong.

Scene Seven - Lord Caitanya Impacts the Age of Kali #5 –Kali Fears Lord Caitanya

A Forest Path

(Sin is on stage and Kali enters. A kirtan is heard offstage throughout the scene.)

Sin: My Lord, I have just seen the son of Sacidevi, Nimai! He is not a common personality; what unique loveliness He possesses! There is but one factor of His personality that may work to our advantage - it is said that "For one who is of a restless nature, good looks pose a formidable enemy to him. Whatever personality traits are exhibited excessively in the early years later become bludgeons of control in my hands! I see many personality traits in this Nimai that I can take advantage of - He has no regard for the Supreme Lord or for brahmanas, for one. He is always undisciplined - did you see how sensually agitated he became seeing those girls on the banks of the Ganga? Do not fear! As yet, I shall expand my domain on the Earth.

Kali: You have a myopic vision, you cannot fathom the feelings of this youth. He knows nothing other than love; intoxicated with affection, He plays with His friends. And, possessed by love He makes no discrimination of proper or inappropriate behavior. An abode of bliss, fearless, imperishable youthful body - He playfully snatches away some offerings meant for the Lord. Who minds? Whoever sees Nimai is immediately satiated by love.
Take note, and understand His activities and purpose; what need has Nimai to propagate love? Whoever simply beheld this golden youth swims in an ocean of ecstasy. Don't speak of lust and agitation. Lust, with folded hands, offers Him service and Laksmidevi herself is present wherever Nimai is. Whatever foodstuff is offered at the lotus feet of Lord Visnu is mercifully received by Him and distributed to His devotees. Understand that this boy is fully self-satisfied, without a want. Just to teach the people, He, the Supreme Personality of God, has appeared, accepting a golden-hued form.

Sin: In the beginning, character traits are more or less under the control of desire, but later, they become rebellious. Look around you, is it not the rule of the day? The mind starts off as the ruler of the senses but as the senses become strong and impetuous, the mind slides into submission to them. Like a blind man fumbles around, aimless, driven to whatever direction the senses goad him, he acts. Mark my words, don't worry, I shall conquer this youth, Nimai.

Kali: Futile hopes! He who chants the Holy Names of the Lord vanquishes Yama,

the god of Death! What power is in your possession to challenge the Devotees of the Supreme Lord? You judge Nimai to be a mere child but he s the teacher of the Holy Names for this Age. Incessantly chanting the Holy Names and enacting His pastimes with His friends, He gladly rushes the arms of anyone who loudly chants "Hari!" When He is restless and disturbed, He immediately becomes calm when Krsna's Name is chanted. Like the bumblebee is busy looking for honey, Nimai searches out the places of Hari Nam chanting and joins in with ecstatic dancing! What magic spell can you conjure up to subjugate this supernatural person, Nimai?
Just now, look at the scene in Navadvip: the demigods hasten to assemble and witness His brahmana initiation ceremony. Loud kirtan is heard) Listen to the sound of Lord Hari's Name coming from the residence Jagannath Misra! Now, you have no place left in this world to stand.

Sin: I cannot bear to hear that Name. I fear the power of the Holy Name of Krsna! Hurry, let's get away from this place!
(They leave. Renunciation, Devotion and Conscience enter.)

Renunciation: Gracious Lady, how mysterious! In the Age of Kali, the Supreme Lord appeared and tricked the demon-king Bali, but what need was there for the Supreme Lord to appear again in this Age of Kali as Lord Vamana?

Devotion: Lord Caitanya's pastimes are unprecedented. Lord Narayana appears in every millennium to lighten the burden of sin in this world. It is for Him to decide whether a full incarnation or a partial incarnation. Previously, He had performed His nectarean pastimes with Radharani in Vrndavana; now in Nadia, Srimate Radharani and Sri Krsna have again both appeared, but this time as one person. This is of course not understandable by those of mundane consciousness. The spiritually sustained saint perceives in his heart every ecclesiastical detail while the profane populace, with a gross vision, sees merely an ordinary child, the son of Sacidevi.

Today, the self-same Lord, as Nimai, will receive His brahmana initiation. Later, as is customary, He will beg donations from all. In this way, the devotees will see Him re-enacting His pastime as Lord Vamana.

Conscience: Reverend Lady! Why, in this Age of Kali, is the Lord manifesting all of His eternal pastimes?

Devotion: The people of Kali Yuga are short-lived and weak with no capacity for strenuous endeavors. Hence, for them, love and compassion are the only succor. Stunted in spiritual vision, with no foresight and swirled in a whirlpool of material anxiety, these men are plagued by doubts. So, when they see the Supreme Lord's transcendental pastimes, their misgivings disappear and they get a glimpse of the eternal. In other millenniums, spiritual paths were devoid of nectaran mellows because they worshipped the impersonal aspect of the Supreme Lord. In Kali Yuga, on the other hand, simultaneously with spiritual initiation, the disciple receives the Holy Name of the Lord. It is like drinking the ambrosia of ecstatic ethereal love of God and the process is chanting

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare.

The Holy Name, being non-different from the Supreme Lord Hari, Himself, has appeared in Nadia to spread the glories of the Holy Name.

This Nimai will traverse the land and distribute transcendental knowledge to all without discrimination. I see all this with perfect vision and everyone present will behold his absolute pastimes. See, the demigods and goddesses are approaching in their flying crafts to see the Supreme Lord's Vamana pastimes.

Renunciation: Gracious Lady, my doubts persist, so I ask you further: Lord Krsna performed His pastimes with the cowherd boys and maidens of Vrndavana. But now that Sri Radha and Sri Krsna have appeared in one form, where is Balarama, Sridama, Sudhama and the cowherd damsels?

Devotion: Perceive with your mystic vision. An anchorite, in sublime trance, is wandering in Nilacala. His name is Sri Nityananda - He is Balarama. While in Nadia, the associates of the Lord are all in brilliant incorporeal forms. Some of them are cowherd boys and some of them are Vraja damsels. The intrinsic individual moods of the different associates of Vrndavana are secretly residing in the inner most cores of their hearts. Nimai is the Supreme Personality of God, Lord Krsna, though His potencies are manifested in slightly variegated forms, this due to the variegations of reciprocating devotional mellows exchanged between the Lord and His devotees. Nimai's pastimes with His associates, therefore, are the pristine replica of the mood of Vraja Lila.

Renunciation: Speak, Devotion! Dispel my doubts! This incarnation is in the mood of Srimate Radharani, yet why does He give this ecstasy away to all freely?

Devotion: The gops of Vrndavana immersed in love of Krsna desired their own appeasement. Srimati Radharani's love for Krsna is like an ocean of bliss that creates tidal waves of joy in everyone's heart. The very essence of the Hladini Shakti - the pleasure potency of Krsna is Srimate Radhika's love. To experience that loving mellow of Srimate Radhika, Kalacandra Krsna appears as Mahaprabhu, steeped in that mood. The world will become engladdened with this quintessential love of Krsna. And Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu has especially appeared to distribute drops from this ocean. Receiving these, all will despise the aspiration for salvation and men men will rise on the waves of ecstasy. Let us go and see this lovely youth performing the incredible pastimes of Lord Vamana.

Conscience: Yet, somehow, my pondering persists. Where, for example, is the *Vatsalya*, parental mellow to be experienced in its entirety?

Devotion: The introspective saint has all the pastimes of the Lord within his heart. Mother Yasoda opened the mouth of Krsna and saw the entire cosmos within His mouth; Nimai informed Mother Saci of all the happenings of the Universe, sitting in one place. Nimai, like Krsna, carried His father's shoes upon his Head. His parents would hear the tinkle of ankle bells although no bells were visible on Nimai. Like Krsna and His friends stole the butter of the gopis, so Nimai snatched the offerings of the young girls at the Ganges bank. The yogis there tried to chase Nimai, but it was like trying to catch the moon! Mother Saci's chastisement of Nimai is like Mother Yasoda trying to tie up Damodara Krsna. Krsna killed the demons sent by Kamsa but Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu will subjugate the fierce scholars by His causeless love and moonlike loveliness. Together with His friends, He played with affection and fraternity, profusely emanating warm fraternal love. The penultimate conjugal love, He will yet manifest in the sunshine of His blooming youth - let us not delay! Listen and see the wonderful pastimes of Nimai. In His youth He defeated hundreds of great scholars in debates on the Vedas and became famous as Nimai Pandit! (This leads into a play depicting Nimai Pandit defeating the scholar Keshava Kasmiri.)
(All leave. Music or Intermission)

THE STORY OF AMOGHA (#1)

from *Sri Chaitanya-Charitamrita, Madhya-lila* Chapter 15

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CAST: Narrator, Lord Chaitanya, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, Sati, Amogha.

Narrator: One day, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya came before Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu with folded hands and submitted a request. Since all the Vaishnavas had returned to Bengal, there was a good chance that the Lord would accept an invitation.

Sarvabhauma: Please come take lunch at my house for one month.

Lord Chaitanya: I can only come for one day because I am a *sannyasi.*

Sarvabhauma: Please come for at least ten days.

Narrator: In this way, by and by, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu reduced the duration to five days. Thus, for five days He regularly accepted the invitation to lunch. Having this arrangement confirmed by Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the Bhattacharya became very glad and immediately invited the Lord to his house on that very day. After returning to his home, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya informed his wife Sati of the auspicious news, and she began cooking with great pleasure. Sarvabhauma personally began to help his wife cook. Sati was very experienced, and she knew how to cook nicely. When everything was ready, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu came there alone after finishing His midday duties. He was a little astonished to see the gorgeous arrangement.

Lord Chaitanya: Look how much *prasadam* has been cooked in six hours!

Sarvabhauma: It is only by Your mercy, my Lord.

Lord Chaitanya: It will be impossible to eat all this!

Sarvabhauma: I know how much You can eat. In Jagannath Puri, You eat fifty-two times a day, and at Govardhana-puja, You eat mountains of *prasadam!* You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, whereas I am a tiny living being. So take a little *prasad* from my house.

Narrator: Hearing this, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu smiled and sat down to eat. Bhattacharya, with great pleasure, first offered Him the *prasad* from the Jagannath temple. At this time Bhattacharya had a son-in-law named Amogha, who was the husband of his daughter, Shathi. Although born in an aristocratic *brahmana* family, this Amogha was a great fault-finder. Amogha wanted to see Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu eat, but he was not allowed to enter. Indeed, Bhattacharya guarded the threshold of his house with a stick in his hand. However, as soon as Bhattacharya began distributing *prasad* and was a little inattentive, Amogha came in. Seeing the quantity of food, he began to blaspheme.

Amogha: This food would be enough to feed twelve men, but this *sannyasi* is eating all of it alone! **(as soon as Amogha says this, Sarvabhauma turns his eyes upon him. Seeing Bhattacharya's anger, Amogha immediately leaves. Sarvabhauma runs after him to strike him with a stick, but Amogha flees so fast that Sarvabhauma cannot catch him. When Sarvabhauma returns, he looks at Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and says:)**

Sarvabhauma: That stupid Amogha!

Sati: (striking her head and chest) Let my daughter become a widow!

Narrator: Seeing the lamentation of both husband and wife, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu tried to pacify them. According to their desire, He ate the *prasad* and was very satisfied. Sarvabhauma then placed a flower garland over Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. After offering obeisances, Sarvabhauma submitted the following humble statement:

Sarvabhauma: I brought You to my home just to have You offended. Please forgive me.

Lord Chaitanya: What Amogha says is true. What is your offense? **(after saying this, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu left and returned to His residence. Sarvabhauma offers his respects to the Lord and says to his wife:)**

Sarvabhauma: Amogha should be killed, or else I should kill myself. But that would be wrong since we are both *brahmanas.* Instead, I will never look at Amogha again.

Sati: And our daughter won't be his wife anymore.

Narrator: That night Amogha fled, and in the morning he immediately fell sick with cholera. As soon as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu heard that Amogha was going to die, He immediately ran to him in great haste. Placing His hand on Amogha's chest, He spoke as follows:

Lord Chaitanya: A *brahmana's* heart is supposed to be clean so Krishna can sit there. Why have you allowed your heart to become dirty? You are very fortunate. Sarvabhauma's association has made your heart clean again. Now get up and chant Hare Krishna!

Narrator: After hearing Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and being touched by Him, Amogha, who was on his deathbed, immediately stood up and began to chant the holy name of Krishna. Thus he became mad with ecstatic love and began to dance emotionally. While Amogha danced in ecstatic love, he manifested all the ecstatic symptoms trembling, tears, jubilation, trance, perspiration, and a faltering voice. Seeing these waves of ecstatic emotion, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu began to laugh. Amogha then fell before the Lord's lotus feet and submissively said:

Amogha: O merciful Lord, please excuse me! **(he begins slapping his own cheeks)** By this mouth I have blasphemed You!

Lord Chaitanya: Everyone in Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya's house is very dear to Me, including his maids and servants and even his dog. Amogha, always chant the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra* and do not commit any further offenses.

Narrator: After giving Amogha this instruction, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu went to Sarvabhauma's house. Upon seeing the Lord, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya immediately offered his obeisances.

Sarvabhauma: Why did You bring Amogha back to life? It would have been better had he died.

Lord Chaitanya: Now that he has become a Vaishnava, he is offenseless. You can bestow your mercy upon him without hesitation.

Narrator: Thereafter, Amogha became an unalloyed devotee of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. He danced in ecstasy and peacefully chanted the holy name of Lord Krishna. In this way, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu performed His various pastimes. Whoever sees them or hears of them becomes truly astonished.

The End

THE STORY OF AMOGHA (#2)

from *Sri Chaitanya-Charitamrita, Madhya-lila* Chapter 15

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CAST: Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, Lord Chaitanya, Sati-Mata (Sarvabhauma's Wife), Gopinath Acharya, Amogha.

SCENE ONE

Lord Chaitanya's residence

Sarvabhauma: My dear Lord, since all the Vaishnavas have now returned to Bengal, I request that You kindly take lunch at my house every day for the next month.

Lord Chaitanya: This is not possible, for it is completely against the religious principles of a *sannyasi.*

Sarvabhauma: In that case, I request that You please come to my house for the next twenty days.

Lord Chaitanya: Bhattacharya, it is not a religious principle of the renounced order! I shall accept lunch at your house for one day only.

Sarvabhauma: O Lord, please be merciful to me. After many millions of lifetimes, I have achieved Your association. Do not treat me in such a way.

Lord Chaitanya: What can I say to you? What will become of My regulative principles? Because I cannot refuse you, I will accept lunch at your house for five days.

Sarvabhauma: Please come this very day at noon, so that we may provide food for You. **(they exit)**

SCENE TWO

The house of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya

(On stage, Sarvabhauma and wife are making preparations)

Sarvabhauma: Quickly now, is all prepared? It is almost noon and the Lord

will be here very soon. Yes, you have done very well! I am sure the Lord will be very pleased to accept such nice preparations that have been offered to the Lord. I only hope that our son-in-law, Amogha, does not decide to come here. That rascal is very envious of the Lord and is always looking for some chance to find fault. But if he shows his face here today, I will give him a sound beating that he will not forget for a long time! **(Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu enters)** My Lord, there is no limit to Your mercy, for You are willing to come to the house of this unfortunate non-devotee! **(he washes the Lord's feet)** Now, my Lord, please come and accept *prasadam.*

Lord Chaitanya: This is wonderful! How was this arrangement of rice and vegetables finished within six hours? Even a hundred men cooking could not possibly finish all these preparations within so short a time! I know that the food has already been offered to Lord Krishna, since I see that there are Tulasi flowers on the plates. You are most fortunate and your endeavor is successful, for you have offered such a wonderful variety of food to Radha and Krishna. Now take away Krishna's sitting place and give Me *prasada* on a different plate.

Sarvabhauma: It is not so wonderful, my Lord. Everything has been made possible by the mercy of He who will eat the food. Now please sit in this place and take lunch.

Lord Chaitanya: This place is worshipable because it was used by Krishna!

Sarvabhauma: Both the food and the sitting place are the Lord's mercy. If you can eat the remnants of the food, what is the offense in Your sitting in this place?

Lord Chaitanya: Yes, you have spoken correctly the *shastras* enjoin that the devotees can partake of everything left by Krishna, but there is so much food here that it is impossible to eat it all.

Sarvabhauma: I know how much You can eat. Here in Jagannath Puri You eat hundreds of buckets of *prasada* 52 times a day, and in Dwaraka You eat daily in 16,000 different places. At the Govardhana-puja ceremony You ate stacks of rice, in comparison to which this in not even a morsel for You. You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, whereas I am a most insignificant living being. Therefore You may accept a little quantity of food from my house. **(Lord Chaitanya sits down to eat. Bhattacharya is guarding the door but, while he is**

serving the Lord, Amogha cunningly enters)

Amogha: This much food is sufficient to satisfy ten or twelve men, but this *sannyasi* alone is eating so much!

Sarvabhauma: Alas, the Lord has been blasphemed in my house. Now I will teach you a lesson! **(he takes a stick and chases Amogha around the room and out the door)** This Amogha is lower than a street-dog! Alas, alas, that ever my daughter was given to such an abominable person! **(calls)** Help! Come and help me here! **(Sati-Mata runs in)**

Sati: My dear husband, what great calamity has occurred here in the Lord's presence?!

Sarvabhauma: Blasphemy! The Lord, while taking *prasada,* has been criticized by our most abominable son-in-law, Amogha!!!

Sati: What! How could such a calamity befall us? Now with all my heart I pray that my daughter, Shathi, will soon become a widow!

Lord Chaitanya: My dear Bhattacharya, do not lament so bitterly. Pacify yourself now that I have taken *prasada* at your house as you desired.

Sarvabhauma: I have invited You to my house only to have You blasphemed! This is a great offense. Please excuse me. I beg Your pardon. **(Bhattacharya brings Lord Chaitanya spices, sandalwood and a garland)**

Lord Chaitanya: What Amogha has said is correct, therefore it is not blasphemy. What is your offense? Now I must depart, but I request you to please don't take this incident seriously and reproach yourself.

Sarvabhauma: O Mahaprabhu, I surely have committed a great offense against You. I am the lowest of men and am certainly not fit to serve You!

Lord Chaitanya: There is no offense. Now please, I beg you, do not take this matter so seriously. **(he exits)**

Sarvabhauma: If the man who blasphemed Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is killed or if I give up my own life, this sinful action may be atoned. However, neither of these ideas are befitting because both bodies belong to *brahmanas.* Instead, I shall avoid the face of that blasphemer. I shall never even speak his name. Inform my daughter Shathi to abandon the relationship with her husband because he has fallen down. For when a husband is fallen, his relationship must be given up. This offense I have committed to the Lord grieves my heart so greatly.

SCENE THREE

Lord Chaitanya's residence

Lord Chaitanya: My dear Govinda, please tell Me what is happening at the house of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya. Both he and his wife were greatly afflicted at My being criticized yesterday by their son-in-law, Amogha.

Gopinath: My Lord, here is a great wonder. Both Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya and his wife are staying in their house and fasting, while Amogha has fallen sick with cholera and is now dying!

Lord Chaitanya: This is all most disturbing! I must go immediately to Amogha's house!

SCENE FOUR

Amogha's house

(Amogha is in his bed. Lord Chaitanya places His hand on Amogha's chest)

Lord Chaitanya: The heart of a *brahmana* is by nature very clean, therefore it is a proper place for Krishna to sit. Why have you allowed jealousy to sit here also, making yourself like a *chandala*? However, because of your association with Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, all your contamination is vanquished and you are now able to chant the Holy Name of the Lord. Get up, Amogha, and chant the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra.* If you do so, Krishna will certainly bestow His mercy upon you. **(Amogha gets up and begins to chant and dance)**

Amogha: O merciful Lord, please excuse my offense. By this mouth I have blasphemed You. **(Amogha slaps his own mouth until Gopinath Acharya stops him)**

Lord Chaitanya: You are the object of My affection because you are the son-in-law of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya. Everyone in his house is very dear to Me, including his maids, his servants and even his dog. Amogha, always chant the Holy Name of the Lord and do not commit any further offenses.

Amogha: My Lord, I am the most abominable person, and surely I was destined to die of cholera due to my offenses at Your lotus feet. But not only have You saved me from death, out of Your causeless mercy, but You have delivered love of God to me! Certainly You are the most merciful of all incarnations, for You are freely giving the priceless gift of love of God even to the lowest of men.

Lord Chaitanya: Surely Krishna has saved you from the most abominable existence, due to His causeless mercy upon you. Now, Gopinath, go to the house of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya and tell him to give up all his lamentation. For this Amogha, who was formerly a most offensive person, is now chanting the Holy Name of the Lord and has become a most exalted devotee. EVERYONE CHANT THE HARE KRISHNA MANTRA!!! ***(kirtan)***

The End

Amoga 3 UNAVAILABLE

Amoga 4 Amogha Criticizes Lord Caitanya

Scene One - The Ashram of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu

(Lord Caitanya is absorbed in meditation upon Lord Krsna as Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya enters.)

Sarvabhuma: My dear Lord, please accept my humble respects.

Caitanya: Ahhh, Sarvabhauma! Just to see you awakens my enthusiasm for service to Lord Krsna!

Sarvabhauma: Mahaprabhu, there is one matter on my mind. Now that the Jagannath Rathayatra Festival is over and all the Bengal Vaisnavas have returned to their homes, I thought this might be the best time to make one request of you.

Caitanya: Yes, what is it, Sarvabhauma?

Sarvabhauma: Kindly accept my invitation for lunch at my home every day for the entire coming month.

Caitanya: But, that will not be possible!

Sarvabhauma: Please bless my home with your holy presence.

Caitanya: I am a sannyasi and a sannyasi makes it a practice to never remain in one place for very long. For a renunciant like Sukadev Goswami, his visit was the duration of a cow's being milked.

Sarvabhauma: Then, just come for twenty days.

Caitanya: It is against the principles of the renounced order.

Sarvabhauma: Fifteen days, I beg you! Give my home Your darshan for fifteen days only.

Caitanya: I shall accept lunch at your home for one day only.

Sarvabhauma: (catching hold of Lord Caitanya's lotus feet) My Lord, please, at least come for ten days!

Caitanya: If I did that people would surely make a mockery of the renounced order.

Sarvabhauma: You, Mahaprabhu, are not an ordinary member of the renounced order; You are an exceptional personality. By no means can Your characteristics as the Supreme Personality of Godhead be concealed by wrapping them in a cloth.

Caitanya: My dear Sarvabhauma, these words of flattery find no

place in my heart.

Sarvabhauma: I mean what I say. Nine days, please?

Caitanya: No.

Sarvabhauma: Then, five days. My Lord, just accept lunch at my home for five days. Please. Does it not mean anything when I beg at Your feet? I am most serious, my Lord. Five days only. Five days. Please!

Caitanya: I will accept lunch for five days.

Sarvabhauma: Oh! What did You say? Thank You, my Lord! Thank You! You are the most magnanimous Personality! Now, for the preparation My Lord, You have ten sannyassi associates with You - some of them may also come, but not all at once. It would not be possible for me to pay them proper respects if they all come together. Paramananda Puri may come the five days. Swarupa Damodar is my intimate friend; he will, no doubt, accompany You on occasion. Sometimes, You will be alone. The other eight sannyassis will accept invitation for two days each. Would you agree to these arrangements, my Lord?

Caitanya: Yes, your plan is very nice.

Sarvabhauma: Then, grace our family with Your company at mid-day today.

Caitanya: Fine.

Sarvabhauma: I will go and put on the rice.
(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya leaves.)

Scene Two - The Ashram of Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya and his wife offer respects to Lord Caitanya as He enters. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya washes Lord Caitanya feet as he converses with the Lord.)

Sarvabhauma: You, my Lord, are the Savior of the most fallen. You have come to bring solace to a poor-hearted householder such as myself. Your kind ways have spared me from the dangerous position of accepting the Absolute Truth as being impersonal. May I become a dust particle at Your lotus feet. My Lord, please take Your seat.
(He uncovers a large tray of opulent prasadam.) Bhagavat prasad.

Caitanya: This is most uncommon! How did you prepare all these preparations within six hours? Sarvabhauma, you are most fortunate, for this feast is a wonderful offering to Radha Krsna. Surely, you will receive Their blessings!
(Lord Caitanya offers obeisances and fold His palms before the prasadam.)

Sarvabhauma: It is not so wonderful, my Lord, everything has been made possible by the energy and mercy of He Who will eat the food. Now, please sit in this place and partake of the remnants, Krsna's mercy.

Caitanya: Yes, in the Bhagavat purana, we find the statement by Uddava to Lord Krsna :

Tvaypayukta-srag-gandh
Vaso 'lankara-carcitah
Ucchistha-bhojino dasas
Tava mayam jayema hi

"Garlands, scented substances, garments, ornaments and other such things that have been offered to the Lord may later be used by Your servants, who reap the result of conquering over the illusory energy."

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya and Sathira Mata carry in more and more preparations.)

Sarvabhauma: My wife and I did not over-exert ourselves in cooking; that the Supreme Lord knows. It is due to His mercy that this feast is manifested.

Caitanya: Such lovely rice! Everything is so exquisite! But, I must say that there is so much food here that it is not possible for me to try everything. I can

Sarvabhauma: I know how much You can eat! After all, at Jagannath Puri, You eat fifty-two times a day and each time you eat hundreds of buckets filled to the brim. At Dwaraka, You keep over sixteen thousand queens who cook for you in sixteen thousand palaces. Also, there are eighteen Mothers like Yasoda, Devaki, Rohini and numerous friends and relatives in the Yadu dynasty who all feed You. In Vrndava, You also have Your father's elder brothers, maternal uncles, husbands of Your father's sisters and many cowherd men who see to it that You get fed. There are also many cowherd boys and You eat twice a day, morning and evening, in the house of each and every one. At the Govardhan Puja ceremony, You eat hills of rice. In comparison, this small quantity is not even a morsel for You. You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, whereas I am a most insignificant living being. Therefore, You may accept a little quantity of food from my house.

(Sathira Mata continues to bring containers of cooked food to Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, who serves the preparations to Lord Caitanya.)

Sarvabhauma: Ah! My dear Lord, here is the prasad of Lord Jagannath!

(He serves the prasad to Lord Caitanya. Amogha, the son-in-law of Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, appears at the door.)

Caitanya: Sarvabhauma, I believe you have a visitor at your door.

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya looks at Amogha and grabs a sick to prevent Amogha from entering.)

Sarvabhauma: I'm sorry for the disturbance, my Lord. He is not welcome here. My son-in-law, Amogha, is of brahmana descent but he is a scoundrel and a fault-finder.

(Amogha returns.)

Amogha: There is a Sadhu here?

Sarvabhauma: Yes, but He wishes to eat in peace.

Amogha: But, I should surely take advantage of this auspicious occasion for some holy association!

Sarvabhauma: Later. Come back later.
(Amogha leaves. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya serves Lord Caitanya. Amogha sneaks in.)

Amogha: Holy Saint, I am Amogha,the son-in-law of Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, as You already know from his kind introduction. And You are ?

Caitanya: Caitanya.

Amogha: Oh yes, Caitanya, the Mahaprabhu. Please accept my respects a thousand times. My father-in-law speaks highly of You. So, this is a very large feast! Father, are you expecting a great many guests?
(No answer. A cold, hard stare from Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya.)

Amogha: May I take a little prasad?

Sarvabhauma: (serves a samosa) Here, and now you may go.

Amogha: (to Lord Caitanya) My father-in-law is certainly not very hospitable. **(bites into samosa)** Mmmmmmm! Undoubtedly prepared with devotion! So,Caitanya Mahaprabhu, I have met many sadhus, but it is indeed rare to meet a Vaisnava sannyasi Please tell me, as a mere boy you defeated the greatest of the logicians, Keshava Kashmiri in a verbal dispute ... Is that correct?

Caitanya: By the grace of My Lord and my guru, Sri Isvara Puri and by the will of Sarasvati, the goddess of Learning, it is so.

Amogha: A champion You are indeed! A champion with words. It has always been known that a brahmana's weapon is his mouth, from which words of truth flow. The business of a brahmana is to always speak.
(Lord Caitanya does not respond. He continues to eat.)
So, all of this sumptuous prasad is for one person only? A sannyasi? I thought a sannyasi was supposed to be detached from sense enjoyment. Here, I see a sannyasi that is eating opulent foodstuffs simply to fill his belly1
(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya flings the stick at Amogha. Amogha dodges the stick and darts to another corner.)
Father, please be calm! This is no way to treat a guest!

Sarvabhauma: You are not a guest in this house.
(Amogha flees and Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya chases him.)
You scoundrel! You rascal!! You snake!!!
(Lord Caitanya is amused.) What have I done in my past to deserve such a son-in-law!? It is but a curse that this fellow has entered into our household! **(to Lord Caitanya)** My Lord, I have brought You to my home just to have You blasphemed! Please excuse me; this is a great offense.

Caitanya: It is not an offence. What Amogha said was perfectly correct. I am just an ignorant fellow. Actually, it is my great fortune that he is advising Me.

Sarvabhauma: But, my Lord, He is undoubtedly at fault! What business has he to insult someone as exalted as Yourself? Take no guilt from this man, this personification of offense. May this blasphemer die and perhaps his offense will be atoned! Or, if Providence will, perhaps I will give up my own life. Perhaps that would be fitting.

Sathi: No!

Sarvabhauma: This will be my atonement, for I am to blame for this inauspiciousness!

Sathi: No, I won't bear to hear of this! Your death will cost the lives of others, specifically my own for it is a principle of dharma for a wife to follow her husband. Suicide will not remedy this situation. Perhaps you will consider that our daughter should become a widow not by any murder attempt but that she live separately from him.

Sarvabhauma: Perhaps you are right. That would be the better course. Neither of my ideas are befitting for to slay a brahmana's body, his or mine, would be another offense. It is said "*Patim ca patitam tyajet*" When a husband is fallen, his relationship must be given up. Our daughter will take leave of that man and, as for me, I never wish to see the culprit again. Nor ever utter his name. I need not take action against him for the Lord will take this sinner into His own hands! Karma will overcome him. It is warned in all scriptures that anyone who criticizes Lord Visnu or His devotee loses everything and falls to the hell known as Kumbhipaka. There, he is tormented by the continual biting of worms that live for the sun and the moon's duration.

Caitanya: Sarvabhauma, again I ask you, why do you speak so severely of Amogha?

Sarvabhauma: His name! Please do not mention his name!

Caitanya: He is expounding a natural principle of sannyasa life. For a sannyasi to indulge in satisfying his tongue is a great offense. The duty of a sannyasi is to eat only as much as needed to keep body and soul together. opulent foodstuffs simply to fill his belly!
yuktahara-viharasya
Yukta-cestasya karmasu
Yukta-svapna bodhasya
Yogo bhavati dukha-ha

Amogha's advice on moderation is very sound. And please consider this - Amogha is like a son to you. A father does not take the faults of his son so seriously.

Sarvabhauma: My Lord. Because You are a pure soul, the purest, You cannot recognize the depth of the sin for You see only the good in others. For this reason, You are tolerant of me, wretch that I am. Forgive me! Forgive me!

Scene Three - The Forest

Amogha: He is mad, completely mad! What can one expect when Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya keeps the company of Caitanya? He is such a nuisance! He is destroying the principle of religion by introducing singing and dancing through public streets and rejecting the study of the Vedanta. What is worse is His integration of the castes! Where will this leave the brahmanas? Untouchables are chanting the Names of Hari and, in some cases, embracing the brahmanas! This is going on in the name of Hindu dharma. The brahmanas **(Amogha is suddenly afflicted by Cholera which is characterized by fever and shakes.)** Uh, the brahmanas under Caitanya have no shame. **(more jitters)** What's happening!?? I'm weak tired. I'd better ease myself down here. **(further attack)** That's strange! What is going on? **(he laughs)** Maybe I became a little too offensive and this is now the reaction. Can karma come so quickly? No, that's ludicrous. It couldn't be karma. It must cholera. I can hardly move no strength. I remember from my early Bhagavat studies, "If a person mistreats great souls, his life span, opulence, reputation, religion, possessions and all good fortune are destroyed."

(Lord Caitanya enters and approaches Amogha, who lies on the ground, almost unconscious from the disease.)

Caitanya: (calls) Amogha! Amogha!

(Amogha strains his eyes to identify the voice.)

Amogha: Ah! You are Caitanya, are you not?

Caitanya: Yes, Amogha.

(He places His cooling hand on Amogha's chest.) The heart of a brahmana is by nature very pure; therefore it is a proper place for Lord Krsna to sit. Why have you allowed jealousy to sit there also? Because of this, you have become like a candala, the lowest of men and you have also contaminated a most-important place - your heart. However, due to the good association of Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, all your contamination is now vanquished. When a person's heart is cleansed of all contamination, he is at last able to chant the maha-mantra, Hare Krsna.

Amogha: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

(Amogha becomes mad with the ecstasy of chanting the Holy Name. He dances. After a while, he falls at the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.)

Amogha: Mahaprabhu! Mahaprabhu! please excuse my offense. My deplorable nature does not earn me the honor of your association. I can understand that my purification is due to Your mercy upon me. Your causeless mercy upon me has made it through my thick shell of impersonalism to my very heart. Oh, by this mouth I have blasphemed You!

(Amogha frantically slaps his own cheeks over and over gain. A devotee stops Amogha and Lord Caitanya touches him, finally subduing him.)

Caitanya: You are the object of My affection because you are the son-in-law of Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya. Everyone in the household of Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya is most dear to Me, including his maids, servants, and domestic animals, what to speak of his relatives. Amogha, do not commit

such offenses again always chant the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra.

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

(bhajan)

THE APPEARANCE OF LORD CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU

* * * * *

CAST: Narrator, Jagannath Mishra, Shachi-Mata, Nilambara Chakravarti, 2 Demigods, Advaita Acharya, Moon and Rahu.

Narrator: *namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhu-tale*
srimate bhaktivedanta svamin iti namine
namaste sarasvati deve gaura-vani pracarine
nirvisesa sunyavadi pascatya desa tarine
bhaja sri krsna caitanya prabhu nityananda
sri advaita gadadhara srivasadi gaura bhakta vrnda
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare

Before the appearance of Lord Chaitanya, all the devotees of Navadvipa used to gather in the house of Advaita Acharya. They took great pleasure in always talking of Krishna, always worshiping Krishna and always chanting the *maha-mantra: Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare.* Sri Advaita Prabhu felt pained to see all the people without Krishna consciousness, simply wallowing in material sense enjoyment.

SCENE ONE

Outside Advaita Acharya's house

(Advaita Acharya walks on, looking very sad. There is a small altar of *Shalagrama-shila*)

Advaita: My heart is so heavy as I look all around, **(sighs)**
to see all the people by Maya tightly bound,
neglecting the *shastras,* which teach us life's goal:
PURE LOVE for Lord Krishna, which gives bliss to the soul.

(Advaita Acharya then walks around, thinking deeply. Then he performs a small *aratik* to *Shalagrama-shila.* Gurukula children sing for the *aratik*, after paying obeisances:)

O Lord, only You can show them the way
to become devotees, for this I do pray.
O come and deliver this world from all shame
teach them the glory of God's Holy Name.

SCENE TWO

Narrator: In the year 1486, in the month of Magha, Lord Chaitanya entered into the bodies of His parents, Jagannath Mishra and Shachi-Devi. Having within her womb the Personality of Godhead, Shachi-Mata's body appeared effulgent, and it was illuminating the house of Jagannath Mishra.

(Shachi-Mata is sitting alone, sewing and singing *"Hare Krishna."* Demigods enter from above on the right side of stage. Shachi-Mata is unaware of their presence)

Demigod 1: Just look at Mother Shachi's face.

Demigod 2: Surely she has received Lord Krishna's grace!

Demigod 1: Such auspicious signs we are seeing.

Demigod 2: This child can't be an ordinary human being!

Demigod 1: I wonder what Lord Krishna has in mind?

Demigod 2: Perhaps this child has come to save mankind!

(Shachi-Mata then notices the demigods. She bows her head in respect, and the demigods exit as she does this. When she again looks up, she is confused to see they are gone; she looks for them, rubs her eyes, etc. Jagannath Mishra then enters. Shachi bows to him and brings him a plate of food)

Shachi-Mata: Prabhu, I thought I just saw some demigods there. **(she points**, **gazing with folded hands as if in prayer)** What is the meaning of this, please?

Jagannath: Strange things have happened to me today as well...
People offer me gifts wherever I go,
and they show me great respect.
But why, I do not know!
I was worrying that something might be wrong,
because your pregnancy is lasting so long.

Shachi-Mata: Where is my father? Has he not come with you?

Jagannath: He is following close behind. Dear wife,

you become more effulgent every day □
as if the Goddess of Fortune
had come with us to stay.

(Nilambara Chakravarti enters. Shachi-Mata touches his feet and brings him a seat, food and drink)

Shachi-Mata: My dear father!

Nilambara: *Hare Krishna!*

Jagannath: Now your learned father will impart
the astrological meaning of the birth chart.
In this way some knowledge we will gain,
for the great Nilambara Chakravarti can explain.

Shachi-Mata: O father, tell us when the child will come, and why He's been so long within my womb. **(Nilambara Chakravarti begins to pull out charts, etc.)**

Jagannath: By your wisdom you can calculate
the nature of our child and His birth date.

Nilambara: Now wait my children, be patient and be still □
I'll tell you if the omen's good or ill. **(looks at charts)**
Aahah, the figure of the lion does appear
both in the zodiac and in the time of birth.
And according to the influences here □
a most auspicious moment to appear on earth.

Jupiter is in Sagittarius,
and Ravi, the sun, is in Aquarius.
Chandra is in the eleventh lunar house,
Ah! This my interest does arouse
In Capricorn are Shravana and Mars □
A very good position for the stars.

I see the joining of so many constellations □
these are most auspicious calculations,
and beyond my wildest expectations!
This child will bring the whole world jubilation!
Rahu will eclipse the moon,
and so the birth will take place soon!

SCENE THREE

Narrator: When the spotless moon of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu becomes visible, what would be the need for a moon full of black marks on its body? Lord Chaitanya was born during a total eclipse of the moon when Rahu, the black planet, covered the full moon...

(Dance scene: Rahu and Moon cavort about eventually Rahu covers the moon as stage lights black out. Meanwhile, bathers in river on other side of stage are chanting *Hare Krishna*)

SCENE FOUR

(Birth scene of Lord Chaitanya, devotee couples bring gifts. The astrologer, Nilambara, studies Lord Chaitanya's chart)

Nilambara: This child will liberate the universe by His preaching of the Vaishnava cult.
Give *prasad* to all the *brahmanas*
to celebrate His fame,
And all the assembled devotees
CHANT THE HOLY NAME!!!

(parents brings out sweets and all sing:) *JAI SHACHI-NANDANA! HARI BOL!*

(big *kirtan*)

The End

The Appearance of Lord Caitanya

by Anubhavananda dasa

The full moon has now arisen
On the Lord's appearance day
As the greatest lover of Krishna
He has come to show the way.

In the mood of Radharani
He has come with Her Complexion
To understand Her greatest love
And reveal our life's perfection

To taste the sweetest love
And bring happiness to all
Sri Caitanya did descend here
By Sri Advaita's call.

So fortunate are we
To be here at this time
For the Lord has just appeared here
To make our lives sublime.

Born under the sacred Nim tree
In the land called Navadvipa
He came to wake the fallen souls from the deepest sleep.

Sri Caitanya is not from this world
He came from high above
To teach us how to serve the Lord
And show the deepest love.

His complexion is like molten gold
His eyes like soothing moons
He's come to melt our hearts gone cold
And bestow life’s highest boon.

Sri Caitanya will save the world
By Sri Krsna Samkirtana
The congregational chanting
Of the holy names of God.

His holy names will drown the world
In an ocean of sweet bliss
So everyone will understand what is real happiness.

Even lower animals
Will dance and chant His names
Without discrimination
All souls he shall reclaim.

The lame shall scale mountains
And the lame blind shall again see
The dumb shall speak the highest truth

All by His causeless mercy.

No-one shall escape this flood
Of love of God He brings
Because it's His desire
And He's the Lord Supreme.

All good qualities He shall show
And his kindness all shall see
And all shall hear His holy names
In love and ecstasy.

With His hands raised high
Hairs standing on end
Tears of love flow from His eyes
As He cries, "I am your Friend!

I have come here just to save you
From all miseries
Like repeated birth and death,
Old age and disease.

Please come back to your eternal home
Your suffering I can't bear.
Please believe that I'm your Friend
And that I really care!

Please now chant Hare Krsna
With all your heart and soul,
Only this will save you
This truth you must know!

There is just one medicine
To wake you from your dream
It will show you who you really are
And Who is the Supreme!

I promise you, o fallen souls!
If you heed this one request
You will wake up in full knowledge
And feel all happiness!

Step out of Maya's darkness
Into the brightest light
Now please chant Hare krsna
And bring the Lord to sight!

All Glories! All Glories!
To Sri Krsna Sankirtan!
Let us all dance together
And chant the Harinam!!!"

Both Lord Sri Caitanya
And Sri Nityananda

Are our only Friends here
In this world of blunder.
Arisen like the sun and moon
On the horizon of Gauda
Please chant Their holy names now
Very, very loud.

Oh my dear Lord Caitanya
And Lord Nityananda
Please come now into our hearts
Roaring just like thunder.

Destroy all our obstacles
Which are like a deep wide ocean
And unto Your two lotus feet
Please give us pure devotion.

O my dearest Lord, I beg
The shelter of Your name
May I always chant Them
In happiness or pain.

Let me be as humble
As the straw in the street
Giving all sincere respect
To everyone I meet.

But, as for myself
I ask respect from none
For I should surely go to hell
For all the wrong I've done.

But You are so very kind
You've come and saved me just the same.
All this wonder has been done
By the power of Your names.

So please allow me to be
As tolerant as a tree
So in every town and village
Your glories I may preach.

May I truly want no followers,
Women, wealth or fame,
Just let me taste the nectar
Of Your holy name.

When oh when will tears of love
Come flowing down like rain?
When shall my hairs all stand on end
As I chant Your holy name?

Please let me be the servant
Of Your servant Prabhupada

You are my One and Only Lord
And worshipable God.

You may crush me or caress me
It's all now up to You.
You may be in my presence
Or break my heart in two.

You are my Lord birth after birth
Son of Nanda Maharaj
May I engage in Your service
And never break Your laws

All one really needs
Is right within Your name
You are fully present there
All doubters fall away.

In heaven or in hell
It all can be the same
An ocean of sweet happiness
Is right within Your name.

Although I am the greatest
Of all Your offenders
Unto Your lotus feet, my Lord
I am begging to surrender.

For it I Your very promise
O my most dear sweet Lord
For one who always chants Your name
You will become his ward.

It doesn't matter who one is
The lowest of the low
If he takes shelter in Your name
You promise Your abode.

There is no other way
In this most troubled age
To cross beyond our struggle
But to always chant Your names.

If a dog crossed this ocean
By Your causeless grace
May I convince the world
To chant Your holy names.

But most unfortunate am I
With no attraction for Your name
I suffer in this world
The worst most hellish pain.

Please force me to surrender

As the servant of Your servants
Let me broadcast Your glorious names
Always crying for Your mercy.

The Chastisement of Chota Haridas

Narrator: At Jagannatha Puri, in the association of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, lived Bhagavan Acharya, who was certainly a gentleman, a learned scholar and a great devotee. He was fully absorbed in thoughts of fraternal relationships with Krsna. He was an incarnation of a cowherd boy and thus his dealings with Svarupa Damodar Goswami were very friendly.

Bhagavan Acarya's father, whose name was Satananda Khan was an expert statesman, whereas Bhagavan Acarya was not at all interested in the management of the state. Indeed, he was almost in the renounced order of life.

Bhagavan Acarya's brother, whose name was Gopala Bhattacharya, had studied Vedanta philosophy at Benares and had then returned to Bhagavan Acarya's home. Bhagavan Acarya took him to meet Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu but, knowing that Gopala Bhatacharya was a Mayavadi scholar, the Lord did not like to associate with him. Nevertheless, because Gopala Bhatacharya was related to Bhagavan Acarya, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu feigned pleasure in seeing him. The Lord's servant, Swarup Damodar, was disturbed by this.

Bhagavan: Gopala Bhatacharya, my younger brother, has returned to my home, having concluded his study of Vedanta philosophy. Please hear his explanations of Vedanta.

Sivananda: You have lost your intelligence in the association of Gopala and therefore you are eager to hear the Mayavadi philosophy. When a Vaisnava listens to the Sariraka-bhasya, the Mayavadi commentary upon Vedanta-sutra, he gives up the Krsna Conscious attitude that the Lord is the master and the living entity is His servant. Instead, he considers himself the Supreme Lord! The Mayavada philosophy presents such a jugglery of words that even a highly elevated devotee who has accepted Krsna as his life and soul changes his decision when he reads the Mayavada commentary on Vedanta-sutra.

Bhagavan: We are all fixed at the lotus feet of Krsna with our hearts and souls. Therefore, the Sariraka-bhasya cannot change our minds!

Sivananda: Nevertheless, when we hear the Mayavada philosophy, we hear that Brahman is knowledge and the universe of maya is false, but we gain no spiritual understanding.

Bhagavan: Excuse me, I will not trouble you further. I will see that my brother returns to his district.

Narrator: One day, Bhagavan Acarya invited Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to dine at his home. He was preparing rice and various types of vegetables There was a devotee in the community named Chota Haridasa who had a particularly beautiful voice. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu enjoyed hearing Chota Haridasa sing devotional songs. Bhagavan Acarya called Chota Haridasa to his home and spoke as follows:

Bhagavan: Please go to the home of Sikhi Mahiti and ask to speak to his sister. In my name, ask her some fine rice and bring it here. Today, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is coming for lunch and I want all the preparations to be first class!

Chota: Yes, prabhu.
(He leaves.)

Narrator: Sikhi Mahiti's sister was named Madhavidevi. She was an elderly lady who always performed austerities and she was a very advanced devotee. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu considered three and a half people to be His intimate devotees. They were Swarup Damodar, Ramanda Raya and Sikhi Mahiti and Madhavidevi, being a woman, was the half.

Chota: Hari bol, Mataji, I have come to beg some nice rice in the name of Bhagavan Acarya from you. It is for SriCaitanya Mahaprabhu's lunch today.

Madhavidevi: Of course, I have some first class rice. Please take this.
(She gives Chota Haridasa a bag.)

Chota: Thank you, Mother.

Madhavidevi: You're welcome.
(Chota Haridasa returns to the home of Bhagavan Acarya.)

Chota: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Here is the rice, prabhu.

Bhagavan: (inspecting rice) Ahh this is the best quality rice!

Chota: Will you require anything else, prabhu?

Bhagavan: No, thank you.
(Chota Haridasa leaves.)

Narrator: In great affection, Bhagavan Acarya cooked the rice, as well as a variety of vegetables and other preparations dear to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He also obtained remnants of Lord Jagannatha and digestive aids such as ground ginger and also lime with salt. At noon, the Lord came to take His noon meal.

Caitanya: Hare Krsna!

Bhagavan: Please come in and let me serve You.
(Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu sits and is served many preparations by Bhagavan Acarya.)

Caitanya: MMmmm This is delicious! This rice is really a treat! Where did you get this wonderful, rice. Bhagavan Acarya?

Bhagavan: I got it by begging from Madhavidevi.

Caitanya: You must have been cooking all day, who went to beg the rice?

Bhagavan: It was Chota Haridasa.

Caitanya: Well, this is certainly the best lunch to be had in all the three worlds!

(Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu eats with great enthusiasm for a while. Bhagavan Acarya keeps serving more. Then, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu gets up, Bhagavan Acarya pours water over Lord Caitanya's hands. Then Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu leaves.)

Narrator: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu did not like that Chota Haridasa, a brahmachari, had spoken to a woman and taken charity from her. After returning to His residence, He gave the following order to his servant **Govinda:**

Caitanya: From this day forward, do not allow Chota Haridasa to come here.

(Govinda looks shocked. They leave.)

Narrator: When Chota Haridasa heard that he had been ordered not to approach Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, he was very unhappy. No one could understand why he had been ordered not to come.

(Swarup Damodar and other devotees approach Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.)

Sivananda: Mahaprabhu, what great offense has Chota Haridasa committed? Why has he been forbidden to come to Your door? He has now been fasting for three days!

Caitanya: I cannot tolerate seeing the face of a person who has accepted the renounced order of life but who still talks intimately with a woman. So strongly so the senses adhere to the objects of their enjoyment that indeed a wooden statue of a woman attracts the mind of even a great saintly person. One should not sit closely with one's mother, sister or daughter, for the senses are so strong that they may attract even attract even a person advanced in knowledge. There are many persons with little in their possession who accept the renounced order of life like monkeys. They go here and there engaging in sense gratification and speaking intimately with women.

Sivananda: Haridasa has committed a small offense; therefore, O Lord, please be merciful to him. Now, he has received a sufficient lesson. In the future, he will not commit such an offense.

Caitanya: My mind is not under My control. It does not like to see anyone in the renounced order who talks intimately with women. You should all tend to your respective engagements. Give up this useless talk. If you speak this way again, I shall go away and you will no longer see me here!

(All the devotees cover their ears with their hands and leave for their respective duties. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu also leaves.)

Scene Two

Sivananda: Parmananda Puri prabhu, would you please talk to Mahaprabhu on our behalf? We just can't understand why Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is so harsh with Chota Haridasa. He respects you as a senior Vaisnava and Godbrother; surely you can ask Him to show mercy to Chota Haridasa.

Paramananda: Yes, I will try.
(Paramananda Puri approaches Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, who offers obeisances and offers His Godbrother a seat by His side.)

Caitanya: What is your order? For what purpose have you come here?

Paramananda: Mahaprabhu, I pray that you will show mercy to Chota Haridasa. Forgive his indiscretion and allow him to have Your association.

Caitanya: My dear lord, please hear me - it is better for you to stay here with all the Vaisnavas. Please give Me your permission to go to Allanath. I will remain there alone; only Govinda will go with Me. **(calling)** Govinda! Govinda! Please come here!
(Govinda enters. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu offers obeisances to Paramananda Puri and starts to leave. Paramanada Puri jumps up and comes before Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu in great humility.)

Paramananda: No, no, my dear Lord. Please sit back down here. You are the independent Personality of about You? All Your activities are for the benefit of people in general. We cannot understand them, for Your intentions are deep and grave.
(They leave.)

Scene Three

(All the devotees go to Chota Haridasa.)

Sivananda: Please hear us, Haridasa, for we all wish you well. Please believe this. At present, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is persisting in His mood of anger because He is the independent Personality of Godhead. At some time, however, He will surely be merciful, for at heart He is very kind. If you also persist, His persistence will increase. It is better for you to bathe and take prasada. In due course, His anger will automatically subside.
(The devotees leave.)

Narrator: When Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu went to see Lord Jagannatha in the temple, Haridasa would stay a long distance away and see Him. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is the ocean of mercy. Who can understand Him? When He chastises His dear devotees, He clearly does so to reestablish the principles of religion or duty. After all the devotees saw this example, a mentality of fear grew among them. Therefore, they all stopped talking to women, even in dreams. In this way, a complete year passed and still there was not a sign of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mercy towards him. Thus, at the end of

one night, Chota Haridasa, after offering Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu his respectful obeisances, departed for Prayag without saying anything to anyone.

Chota Haridasa had conclusively decided to attain shelter at the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Thus, he entered deep into the water at Triveni, the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna at Prayaga and in this way gave up his life. Immediately after committing suicide in this way, he went in his spiritual body to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and received the mercy of the Lord. However, he still remained invisible.

(The following is acted out.) In a spiritual body resembling that of a Gandharva, Chota Haridasa, although invisible, would sing at night for Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to hear. No one but the Lord, however, knew this.

(Chota Haridasa sings a nice bhajan as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu listens.)

Scene Four

Caitanya: (to devotees) Where is Haridasa? Now, you may bring him here.

Devotee: One night, at the end of a full year, Chota Haridasa got up and went away. No one knows where he has gone.

(Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is mildly smiling. He leaves. The devotees hear Chota Haridasa singing.)

Govinda: Haridasa must have committed suicide by drinking poison. Because of this sinful act, he has now become a brahmana ghost!

Devotee: We cannot see his material form but still we hear his sweet singing. Therefore, he must have become a ghost!

Sivananda: No, this is not a good guess. Chota Haridasa chanted the Hare Krsna mantra throughout his life and served Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Moreover, he is dear to the Lord and has died in a holy place. Haridasa cannot have become degraded; he must have attained liberation. This is a pastime of Mahaprabhu. You will all understand it later.

Scene Five

(Sivananda Sena enters with many devotees.)

Sivananda: Jaya Sri Krsna Caitanya!
(He offers obeisances to Mahaprabhu.)
Where is Chota Haridasa?

Caitanya: A person is sure to achieve the results of his fruitive activities.

Sivananda: Chota Haridasa entered deep into the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna at Prayag and gave up his life.

Caitanya: If with sensual intentions one looks at women, this is the only process of atonement.

Narrator: Then all the devotees concluded that because Chota Haridasa had committed suicide at the confluence of the rivers Ganges and Yamuna, he must have ultimately attained shelter at the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. In this way, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu performs His pastimes, which greatly satisfy the ears and minds of pure devotees who hear about them.

This incident manifests the mercy Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, His teaching that a sannyasi should remain in the renounced order and the deep attachment to Him felt by His faithful devotees. It also demonstrates the glories of holy places and shows how the lord accepts His faithful devotee. Thus, the Lord fulfilled five or seven purposes by performing one pastime. The pastimes of Lord Caitanya are like nectar and the are deep like the ocean. People in general cannot understand them. Please hear these pastimes with faith and confidence. Do not argue, for arguments will produce a contrary result.

Praying at the lotus feet of Sri Rupa and Sri Raghunatha, always desiring their mercy, Sri Krsnadasa Kaviraj has narrated the Sri Citanya-caritamrta, following in their footsteps.

(Music. Kirtan.)

The Conversion of Sarvabhauma #1

(Nice music,soft kirtana or bhajana)

Narrator: Upon His arrival at Puri, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu went to see the deity of Jagannatha in the Temple. Upon seeing the Lord, Sri Caitanya at once became saturated with transcendental ecstasy and fell down on the floor unconscious.

Caitanya:O My Lord! **(He becomes unconscious.)**

Narrator: The custodians of the temple could not understand the transcendental feats of Sri Caitanya so they summoned the greatest learned pandit of the area, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya. **(Music)**

Pujari: (to Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya) He exclaimed, "O My Lord!!!" and then He fell down upon the floor where He has been for almost an hour. Many people from all walks of life and all stages of spiritual realization come here daily. It is difficult for us to ascertain who is a genuine devotee in advanced stages of Spiritual Ecstasy and worthy of our respect and who is a charlatan, fooling himself and others by making a show of transcendental symptoms that we should be wary of.

Sarvabhauma: I will test all of His bodily symptoms in light of the scriptures. Hmmm ... the movement of his stomach and the beating of His heart are in complete suspension. Only by holding this feather to His nostrils do I detect the slightest breath within His body. I judge his trance of transcendental ecstasy to be genuine. The only way to revive Him therefore is to very loudly chant the Holy Names of the Lord. **(loud kirtan. Eventually, Sri Caitanya springs up and joins in.)**

Caitanya: **Hari Bol! Hari Bol!**

Sarvabhauma: I request that You stay at my Ashrama and hear from me the teachings of the Vedanta.

Narrator: Lord Caitanya agreed and listened silently to the teaching of Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya.

Sarvabhauma: Krsna Caitanya! How is it that for seven days You have not made any inquiry or comment on my explanations of the Vedanta?? Is it that You cannot understand the sutras??

Caitanya: I understand the sutras very well but I do not understand your commentaries.

Sarvabhauma: Well, if You think that You can do better, please proceed.

Narrator: Thereupon, Mahaprabhu explained all of the sutras Himself, emphasizing that devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead is the highest goal of human life. When the Bhattacarya became convinced of Sri Caitanya's divinity, **(Sarvabhouma Bhattacharya kneels reverently before Sri Caitanya, special effects may be used.)** the Lord revealed His four-armed Narayana form holding disc club, conch and lotus. Then, He revealed His six-armed Sad Bhuja form as Lord Ramachandra, Govinda and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Sarvabhouma Bhattacharya became changed by the mercy of Sri Caitanya.

Sarvabhauma:(very happily) Let me surrender unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Who has appeared now as Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!! He is the ocean of all mercy and has come to teach us material detachment and to render devotional service to the Supreme Lord!!

Caitanya: **Always chant Hare Krsna and dance!**

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya leads a blissful kirtan, pujaris join in, Sri Caitanya dances. Kirtan)

Lord Caitanya Converts Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya

Editor's Note -This simple play would be very instructive and enjoyable to see.

SCENE ONE - The Forest

(Lord Nityananda and several devotees come on. They look about, admiring the setting.)

Narrator: After taking the renounced order of life, Sannyasa, Lord Caitanya journeyed with Lord Nityananda and other devotees toward Jagannath Puri in Orissa. When Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu arrived at the city known as Kamalpura, He decided to take His bath in the Bhaginadi River and therefore left His Sannyasa staff in the care of Lord Nityananda. While Lord Caitanya was bathing and visiting the temple of Lord Siva known as Kapotesvara, Lord Nityananda broke the staff into three pieces and threw them into the river. The pastimes of the Lord are both mysterious and wonderful.

Caitanya: Nitai Prabhu, I will take my bath here in this beautiful river and then I will visit the place known as Kapotesware, a temple of Lord Siva. Please keep my danda very safe while I am gone.

Nityananda: My Lord, I am Your servant, whatever You request, I shall do. (Sri Caitanya leaves.) Hmmm ... What is the reason for Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to carry this Danda wherever He goes? He is not a sannyasi, He is more than Paramahamsa! He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself!! I will break this danda and cast the pieces into the river. Then, He will never have to carry it again!

Narrator: After dancing and chanting and exhibiting many wondrous symptoms of ecstasy at Kapotesware, Sri Caitanya returned and requested Nityananda Prabhu to give back His danda.

(Lord Caitanya runs on excitedly.)

Caitanya: Can You see it?! There is the temple of Lord Jagannath in the distance! Hare Krsna! Hari Bol!

Nityananda: Yes, Mahaprabhu, let us all chant!

(sings) Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me(sings) Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me(sings) Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me(sings) Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me(sings) Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me(sings) Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me

(They chant responsibly for a few minutes. Everyone sings in response)

Caitanya: (impatient) Nityananda, please return my staff to Me and We shall go the temple.

Nityananda:My dear Lord, Your staff has been broken into three parts.

Caitanya: How has this happened?

Nityananda: You fell down in ecstasy and I caught You; but We fell down on Your staff and it was broken. I threw the useless pieces into the river.

Caitanya: My sannyasa staff has been broken?! Now I am a bad example of sannyasa behavior. All of you have helped Me greatly by bringing Me here to Jagannatha Puri. However, My only possession was that one staff and You could not keep it safely for Me when I gave it to You. You should all go ahead of Me to Puri! Or get behind Me, I don't care which, but I will go alone to see Lord Jagannatha!

Mukunda: My Lord, please go ahead and we will all follow you.

Caitanya: I will leave at once.

SCENE TWO Jagannath Puri

Narrator: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu then began to walk very swiftly to see Lord Jagannath. The devotees could not understand why Lord Nityananda had broken the staff and why Lord Caitanya, first allowing Him to do so, then became angry. No one could understand the purpose of both the Lords, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu.

So, in ecstasy, Lord Caitanya proceeded to the Jagannath Puri temple. Upon seeing the

Deity of Lord Jagannath, He became restless due to Love of Godhead and ran swiftly to

embrace the Lord of the Universe. Being overwhelmed by Love of God, Sri Caitanya

Mahaprabhu fainted and fell to the floor of the temple.

(Music, lights dim and come up to indicate the passage of time)

Watchman: Here is some poor beggar lying on the floor of LordWatchman: Here is some poor beggar lying on the floor of Lord Jagannath's temple. The rascal is asleep! I'll get Him up! Hey You! Get Up! Get up! You can't sleep here! This is the house of the Lord! Get up! Get up! If You don't get up immediately I will beat You with my stick!

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya bursts into the room.)

Sarvabhauma: No! Don’t touch Him!!

Watchman: (gasp) Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya!!

Sarvabhauma: Yes, and I forbid you to touch Him!!

Watchman: I am the watchman and it is my duty to make sure that no homeless men sleep or
loiter in the temple.

Sarvabhauma: This man is a great devotee! Immediately leave Him to me! GO! Leave us
immediately! (Watchman leaves) Hmmmm ? Hmmmmm ? He is so beautiful!! This is not
ordinary sleep - this beautiful young man is actually experiencing Love of God! I can identify
all the symptoms of ecstasy on His body! I want very much to study this. (calling) Watchman!
Come here, please hurry!
(Watchman enters)

Watchman: (Go there, come here - why can’t these sadhus make up their minds?) Yes, Your Holiness?

Sarvabhauma: Give me a hand, please. We will move this Devotee to my ashram where He will be more comfortable.

(They pick up Lord Caitanya and take Him off stage.) Gently!

SCENE THREESCENE THREE

(Watchman and temple employees enter from one side and Lord Nityananda’s party enters from the other.)

Watchman: It was amazing! Did you see that? A sannyasi came in and fell down asleep on the floor. Of course, I had to get Him out, didn’t I? ? After all, that’s my job! Then, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, the most famous scholar in all of India comes and tells me to leave the unconscious man alone. Then, the Bhattacharya takes the Sannyasi to his own house! I can’t understand it, can you? Why do these things only happen to me? Anyway, the Sannyasi was certainly beautiful, wasn’t He? He certainly was ! And He did start sleeping just after He saw Lord Jagannath; I guess He became tired … Anyway, I can’t understand it! Who am I to judge? I better just not think about it.

(Watchman and temple employees leave.)

Mukunda: Lord Nityananda! Did You hear that?

Nityananda: Yes, I think I know who that beautiful Sannyasi was!!

Mukunda: It sounds like Lord Caitanya fell into an ecstatic trance and fainted after seeing Lord Jagannath! The scholar, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, took the Lord to his home when the Lord's consciousness did not return ?(Gopinath Acharya enters)

Gopinath: Mukunda Datta!! Is that you? What are you doing in Gopinath: Mukunda Datta!! Is that you? What are you doing in Jagannath Puri?!?

Mukunda: Gopinath Acharya?! Yes, Gopinath!

Gopinath: Please accept my humble obeisances. I am astonished to see you here!

Mukunda: And I am very happy to see you!

Gopinath: Please tell me any news of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Mukunda: The Lord has already arrived here!

Gopinath: Lord Caitanya here?! In Jagannath Puri?!? How wonderful!

Mukunda: And we have all come with Lord Caitanya. Here is Lord Nityananda.

Gopinath: (bows down) I am blessed to have Your presence, Sri Nityananda Prabhu. I beg that You and Your party take Your meals at my home for as long as You stay in Jagannath Puri. Now, please, tell me news of the Lord!

Mukunda: Thank you. Have you heard that He took sannyasa?

Gopinath: No, I hadn't heard. Please tell me more!

Mukunda: After taking sannyasa, Lord Caitanya desired to reside in Jagannath Puri in order
that He would sometimes see the Bengali devotees and they would get news from the Orissan
devotees.

Gopinath: But, where is He now? Is He in the temple, now?

Mukunda: Lord Caitanya left our company and walked ahead to see Lord Jagannath. We have just arrived here and we are looking for Him.

Nityananda: We have heard that a beautiful young Sannyasi fainted upon seeing Lord Jagannath and, in an unconscious condition, has been taken to the ashram of Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya.

Gopinath: Lord Caitanya has been taken to Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya's? That's wonderful; Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya is my brother-in-law! Let us go there at once!
(All leave)

SCENE FOUR Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya's Ashram

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya and several of his disciples are with Lord Caitanya.)

Narrator: Meanwhile, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, with the help of His disciples, laid Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu down in a very sanctified room. After examining the body of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya saw that His stomach was not moving. The Lord did not even appear to be breathing. The Bhattacharya became very anxious.

Sarvabhauma: The Sannyasi does not seem to be breathing ? He may be in ecstasy or then again, He may be dead. I know a simple test to determine whether He is alive or not ... I'll get a cotton swab - ah, here's one, and I'll hold it by the Sannyasi's nostrils, and if the fibers of the cotton swab move due to His breathing, I'll know that He is still alive. If they do not move - well, there is no use keeping a dead body within one's home? (excited) They're moving!! He's alive! He's not dead, but His condition has been brought about by transcendental love of Krsna!! These signs only take place in great eternally liberated souls, how is this possible in the body of an unknown person?

(Gopinath Acharya enters.)

Disciple: Gopinath Acarya ki jaya!

Sarvabhauma: Gopinath! How fortunate you are to have come at this time!

Gopinath: Oh! To see the Lord like this is very painful, but still, I am happy to see the Lord in any condition!
(Lord Nityananda, Mukunda Datta and other devotees enter.)

Sarvabhauma: Nityananda Prabhu is here, too!! Namaste! Sarvabhauma: Nityananda Prabhu is here, too!! Namaste!

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya greets Lord Nityananda with folded hands.) Please sit down.

(Disciples spread out mats or cushions. Everyone sits.)

> I am so fortunate that you have all come to my humble ashram. My disciples will bring refreshments. Nityananda Prabhu, have You ever seen such a situation? This Sannyasi has fallen down in the temple of Lord Jagannath and I cannot understand how to bring Him back to external consciousness.

Nityananda: Sir, This is not an ordinary sannyasi.

Sarvabhauma: Yes, I can see that.

Nityananda: Nor is His unconsciousness ordinary.

Sarvabhauma: Yes, I can see that, too.

Nityananda: He is Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead in the form
of His devotee and His ecstasy is such that He can be aroused only if we all chant together the
Hare Krsna Mahamanta very loudly!

Sarvabhauma: Are You sure that will wake Him up? I don't think it could.

Nityananda: Yes, it will, if we chant loudly enough. Everyone chant!

All: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Lord Caitanya awakens. He stands up and raises His arms.)

Caitanya: Hari! Hari!Caitanya: Hari! Hari!Caitanya: Hari! Hari!Caitanya: Hari! Hari!Caitanya: Hari! Hari!Caitanya: Hari! Hari!

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya bows down and touches Lord Caitanya's lotus feet. Vaisnavas sit down again and Disciples serve them water.)

Sarvabhauma: Namo Narayana! I offer my obeisances to Narayana!!

Sarvabhauma: Namo Narayana! I offer my obeisances to Narayana!!

Caitanya: Krsna matir astu, let your attention be on Krsna and may you ultimately become
Krsna Conscious!

Sarvabhauma: So, You are simply a Vaishnava sannyasi, a worshipper of Lord Krsna. But, as

you are a sannyasi, I wish to become Your servant.

Caitanya: You are Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya! You are the most famous and learned scholar of Vedanta philosophy! You are the master of all the people of the world. I must take shelter of you!

Sarvabhauma: It sees to be very dangerous for You to go alone to the temple of Lord Jagannath. Today, I had to carry You here when You fainted.

Caitanya: Thank you for saving Me from My difficult situation, today.

Sarvabhauma: What happened today may occur again and I may not be there to protect You next time.

Caitanya: You are right, from now on, I will never enter the temple alone. I will only view Lord Jagannath from the place known as the Garuda Stambha.

Sarvabhauma: That is a good idea. Now, I will arrange an apartment for You to stay in while You are in Jagannath Puri. I will see to it that you comfortable and peaceful.

Caitanya: Thank You.

Sarvabhauma: Please go now to see Lord Jagannath!

(Lord Caitanya, Lord Nityananda and Their party leave.)

Sarvabhauma: (to Gopinatha Acharya) This sannyasi is very meek and humble by nature. And He is very beautiful. I am feeling very affectionate to Him. What is His name?

Gopinath: His name is Sri Krsna Caitanya.

Sarvabhauma: Sri Krsna is a good name but the name Caitanya means that He belongs to a second class community of sannyasis.

Gopinath: Sri Krsna Caitanya is the Supreme Lord Himself and He is therefore independent of any formalities.

Sarvabhauma: It is also worrying me that this sannyasi is just in the most youthful part of his life. He is so beautiful, also! How will He be able to follow the strict regulations of sannyasa!?

Gopinath: My dear Bhattacarya, you do not yet know the greatness of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Sarvabhauma: Still, I would like to help Him in some way. I will continuously speak to Him the philosophy of monism. He will thereby know that we are all God and therefore He will be able to remain fixed in His vows of renunciation.

Gopinath: Bhattacharya! All the symptoms of the Supreme Personality of Godhead are found in Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to the highest degree!!

Sarvabhauma: Yes, I will educate Him, change Him from being a Vaisnava, fix Him up in monism, offer Him saffron cloth and initiate Him again as a first class Saraswate sannyasi!

Gopinath: Those who are ignorant find the conclusions of theauthorized teachers very difficult to understand. You are a renowned scholar and a teacher of many disciples. Indeed, there is no scholar to match your learning on all the earth.

Nevertheless, because you do not have even a pinch of the Lord's mercy, you cannot understand the Supreme Personality of Godhead, although He was present in your own home!

(They exit. Lights dim and increase to indicate the passage of time.)

SCENE FIVE - The TempleSCENE FIVE - The Temple

Narrator: The next morning, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya visited the temple of Lord Jagannath together. Both of them were in a very pleasant mood. When they entered the temple, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya offered Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu a seat, while He himself sat down on the floor, out of respect for a sannyasi.

Sarvabhauma: My dear Sri Krsna Caitanya, now I wish to explain something to You for Your own good. You are a Vaisnava sannyasi, You are young and handsome and I feel much affection for You. I therefore want to give You Absolute Knowledge- the knowledge of Vedanta!

Caitanya: You are very merciful to Me and therefore I feel that it is My duty to obey your orders.

Sarvabhauma: Hearing this Vedanta philosophy is a sannyasi's main business. You should not waste any more time. You should start hearing Vedanta philosophy

immediately and you
should never stop hearing it! I will begin now. I am reading from Sri Sankacarya's commentary
on the Vedanta, the Sarirak Bhasya ?

Ommmmmmmmmmmmmm (cough cough)
Athato Brahma Jijnasa ?We must now inquire into the Absolute Truth
Janma dyasya yatah - The source of everything is Brahman, the formless.
Tat Vam Asmi - You are the same!

Narrator: Thus for seven days, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya continuously instructed the Lord in Vedanta philosophy. He explained that God is formless, inactive, and has no qualities. He described the living entity as God, but in illusion. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya presented that the world was false and that the Absolute Truth, by the accumulation of all evidences by logic, experimentation and hypothesis proved to be impersonal. For seven days, Lord Caitanya did not say a word. He simply sat and listened to Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya. On the eighth day, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya said to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu:

Sarvabhauma: You have been listening to the Vedanta Philosophy from me continually for
seven days!

Caitanya: Yes.

Sarvabhauma: But, You have simply been listening, completely silent! Since You do not say whether You think it is right or wrong, I cannot know whether You are actually understanding the Vedanta philosophy or not.

Caitanya: My Spiritual Master said that I was a fool so I generally do not study Vedanta
philosophy. I am just trying to hear your commentary because you said that it is My duty as a
sannyasi.

Sarvabhauma: But, You are silent! Why don't You ask me questions about my commentary?? I would gladly explain it clearly and simply for You, and then You will no longer be a fool!!

Caitanya: I can understand the meaning of each verse of the Vedanta Sutra, clearly and easily.

Sarvabhauma: Then, what don't You understand?Sarvabhauma: Then, what don?t You understand?

Caitanya: Each verse of the Vedanta Sutra is clear, but your explanation of the verses covers the meaning, just like a cloud covers the sun.

Sarvabhauma: What!!!! You understand the verses but You don't understand my commentary!??!

Caitanya: Yes, you have simply abandoned the direct meaning and proceeded with your own imaginative interpretation. The statements in the scripture are clear and perfect. They describe the Supreme Absolute Truth as a Person, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, full with all opulences such as Fame, wisdom, beauty, wealth, strength and renunciation. But, you are trying to explain Him as impersonal and formless!

Narrator: Then Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Who presented Himself as a fool to Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, explained the philosophy of Krsna Consciousness, fully quoting the authorized scriptures as evidence. Lord Caitanya amazed the Bhattacharya and proved to him, beyond a doubt, that Krsna is a Person, the Supreme Person, and that the purified consciousness of every soul is service to Krsna with great love and devotion.

After hearing the explanation and evidence given by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya tried to defend the Vedanta interpretations of Sankacaharya. Being a great scholar and word juggler, he presented unlimited opposition to Lord Caitanya's teachings. He presented false arguments and false logic and tried to intimidate and defeat the Lord. However, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu refuted all these additional arguments as well, speaking long into the night, and firmly established the Absolute Truth as Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya became astonished. He was stunned and could not say
anything more.

Sarvabhauma: uh but You well ? if we ? conversely ? that is to say it could possibly uh ?

Caitanya: Do not be astonished. Actually, devotional service to Krsna is the

highest perfection of human activities. Do you know the ?atmaram verse? from the Srimad Bhagavatam?

Sarvabhauma: Yes, of course, it is a most famous verse.

Caitanya: Could you please chant it for me?

Sarvabhauma: (cough cough) Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 1, Chapter

Atmaramas ca munaye
Nirgrantha apy urukrame
Kurvanty ahaitukim bhaktim
Ittham bhuta guno harih

Caitanya: And the meaning?

Sarvabhauma: Those who are self satisfied, including those who are actually liberated are also attracted to the loving service of Krishna, the Supreme Lord. He is called Krsna because His qualities and activities are all transcendental and wonderful.

Caitanya: Would you kindly explain that verse to Me?Caitanya: Would you kindly explain that verse to Me?Caitanya: Would you kindly explain that verse to Me?Caitanya: Would you kindly explain that verse to Me?

Narrator: Upon being requested by Lord Caitanya, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya explained the atmarama verse in nine different scholarly ways. After finishing his explanations, the scholar Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya said:

Sarvabhauma: My dear sir, I have a great desire to hear Your explanation of this verse.

Narrator: Then, Lord Caitanya, Who is Krsna and possesses all knowledge, explained just the first word in the verse atmarama in eighteen different scholarly ways, astounding Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya. Then the Lord said to the humbled scholar:

Caitanya: Krsna is unlimited. It is impossible to explain His unlimited qualities completely.

Sarvabhauma: Amazing!!! By Your mercy, I am beginning to understand now the meaning of the atmarama verse.? Until now, I have simply wasted my time. You, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, are certainly Lord Krsna Himself!! I was proud of my learning and I couldn’t understand Him. Because I couldn’t understand Him, I committed so many offenses - I pray that You will forgive me.

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya offers long obeisances directly at the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Flute music plays. Actor dressed as Vishnu appears. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya looks at them both with awe and then Visnu plays His flute to indicate that He is Krsna. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya bows His head to the floor again and Vishnu leaves. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya looks up and sees Lord Caitanya once again.)

Narrator: So, by the mercy of Lord Caitanya, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya could understand who he was and the purpose of his life. He could understand that he was a spirit soul meant to serve Krsna with his mind, body and words. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya could also understand the Importance of chanting the Holy Names of the Lord and assisting Lord Caitanya in the distribution of love of Godhead everywhere.

Sarvabhauma: HARE KRSNA!! All Glories to Sri Krsna Caitanya!! Hare Krsna!!

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya rises and Lord Caitanya embraces him, causing the Bhattacharya to faint. He quickly rises up and starts to dance giddily while chanting the mahamantra quite happily, sometimes falling. Lord Caitanya laughs and catches his hands, trying to keep him from falling. Gopinath Acarya walks in at this time.)

Gopinath: Haha! Jai Sri Caitanya! This is wonderful! My Lord, You are so merciful that You can convert even a dry old word wrangler like my brother-in-law! Now he, too, tastes the nectar of the Holy Names!

Sarvabhauma: (out of breath, ecstatic, transformed) O my dear Lord, You have delivered the whole world, but that is not a very great feat for You. However, You have also delivered me, and that is certainly a credit to Your wonderful power. I had become dull-headed by reading too many books. Indeed I had become like a cold iron bar. But, out of causeless mercy, You have melted my heart and thereby shown that Your ability is the topmost power.

(They have a kirtan. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya whirls about ecstatically.)

Narrator: So, by the mercy of Sri Krsna Caitanya, all the dullness in the mind of the Bhattacharya was removed and he was released from material bondage in the bodily conception

of life. Free from pride, he became a pure devotee of Krsna and he always chanted the Holy
Name of Sri Krsna Caitanya, the son of Mother Saci. Indeed, chanting the Holy Name
Became his life and soul.

If one hears, with faith and love, these pastimes concerning Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's
meeting with Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, he very soon becomes freed from the net of speculation
and fruitive activities and attains the shelter of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's lotus feet.
(Kirtan)

Everyone's Talking about Nimai

by Laksmimoni dasi

Narrator: We offer our respectful obeisances unto Sri Caitanya and Sri Nityanda Who are like
the sun and moon. They have arisen simultaneously on the horizon of Gaudia to dissipate the darkness of ignorance and thus wonderfully bestow benediction upon all. May Sri Krsna Caitanya,
Who is the combined form of the melted hearts of Sri Sri Radha and Krsna appear to us in this narration of His divine lila.

1 st Devotee: Saci Mata, are you all right? You seem so far away!

Sacimata: I was just thinking about Nimai

1 st Devotee: Of course.

2 nd Devotee: How silly of us to ask.

Sacimata: And when He first appeared in our home

1 st Devotee: Ahhh ! Do you know it was the very day that the drought ended in our village?

2 nd Devotee: Even the air was fragrant - as if the sweetest perfume was in the air!

3 rd Devotee: Don't forget the lunar eclipse that day - it was the first one I've ever seen!

2 nd Devotee: I loved being in the Ganges River at night, chanting together with so many people!

3 rd Devotee: And the stars! The sky looked like it was made of diamonds!

2 nd Devotee: All you could hear was the chanting of

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

The Holy Names filled the sky like thunder!!

Sacimata: I'm going to tell you all a great secret.

3 rd Devotee: A secret!?

2 nd Devotee: What is it?

Sacimata: Jagannath Misra had a vision before Nimai was born.

3 rd Devotee: What kind of vision?

Sacimata: He said that he saw the Lord and His abode enter and that Lord Ananta Himself was
singing praises of my son.

2 nd Devotee: Could such a thing be possible?

1 st Devotee: I remember how you looked when you were carrying Nimai. You were so effulgent!

2 nd Devotee: It's true - you looked just like the Goddess of Fortune!

3rd 2 nd Devotee: And Nimai is no ordinary child. Nilambara Cakravarti said so.

Sacimata: That's why he named Him Visvambhara - he said it means "One Who maintains the universes." I wonder who Nimai really is?

2 nd Devotee: There is an old prophecy that says a great king will be born one day to a humble Brahmana family in Nadia.

3 rd Devotee: Do you think Nimai could be that king?

Sacimata: Well, perhaps Nimai is a powerful demigod.

1st 1 st Devotee: How I would love to have a son Who is so beautiful! I have never seen such large eyes; they are just like lotus petals!

2 nd Devotee: And His nose is so sweet, like a sesame flower.

3 rd Devotee: And His lashes, so thick and black; He doesn't even need kajal.

1 st Devotee: Of course He does, the ghee and camphor help to protect His precious eyes, besides making them very beautiful.

2 nd Devotee: I think Nimai's eyes look like bumblebees.

3 rd Devotee: And we're the flowers.

2 nd Devotee: I'm a flower; you're a weed.

3rd 2 nd Devotee: I am not a weed. Anyway, did you see how Nimai grabbed my finger, yesterday? He's so strong, just like a little lion cub!

1 st Devotee: We never did get to see the lovely presents that Sita Rani gave you. We heard she was very generous.

Sacimata: Oh yes, she was, and do you remember how happy Advaita Acharya seemed? They say He was dancing like a mad man!

1 st Devotee: It's true, He couldn't take His eyes off Nimai.

2 nd Devotee: Nobody could, nobody can, your son has bewitched us, Saci.

Sacimata: Yes, He is an enchanter.

1st 1 st Devotee: He certainly has captured my heart!

2 nd Devotee: And mine!

3 rd Devotee: And mine!

Sacimata: And mine!

1s1 st Devotee: You'll have to be careful when He grows up.

Sacimata: That's not something I want to think about right now. Come on, I'll show you Sita Rani's gifts.
(She brings the gifts out.)

1 st Devotee: Oooh, what a pretty jacket. Look at this intricate embroidery work!

2 nd Devotee: Such fine cloth!

3 rd Devotee: He's growing so fast, He'll be wearing it before you know it.

1 st Devotee: Oh, and these saris, too?

Sacimata: Yes.

1 st Devotee: This silk is excellent! What rich colors! I've never known her to be so generous.

2 nd Devotee: Neither have I, although she's always kind.

Sacimata: Everyone was generous. I still can't believe all the wonderful gifts. She gave Him these golden bangles, too and these silver coins. To tell you the truth, I don't really know where all these gifts come from. I remember seeing many beautiful and richly dressed people who I didn't recognize.

1 st Devotee: I wonder who they were.

Sacimata: My husband heard that some people have said that the demigods were there in disguise when Nimai was born.

[1s]1 st Devotee: Do you think that's true, Saci devi?

Sacimata: I've never told anyone this, but one day I heard footsteps in my house. I thought they were soldiers; I was so frightened. Suddenly, I saw celestial beings, dressed in exquisite clothes with sparkling jewels and milk white pearls. They took Nimai and put Him on a throne made of precious gems and began to worship Him.

2 nd Devotee: Our Nimai was worshipped by the demigods!?

3 rd Devotee: Maybe it was just a dream.

2 nd Devotee: Hush! What did you do?

Sacimata: I was so scared, I just grabbed Him and ran into Jagannatha Misra's room.

2 nd Devotee: And then what?

Sacimata: And then, they just went away. I also thought that perhaps I was dreaming.

1 st Devotee: Lord Krsna has given you a special child because you've suffered so much since your eight little girls died as babies.

Sacimata: Nrsimha! Nrsimha! You shouldn't even talk about such things.

1 st Devotee: Don't be silly. The neem tree will protect our Nimai! He's special; nothing can hurt Him!

Sacimata: Maybe. I'll just tiptoe into His room and see if He's alright ...

2 nd Devotee: Oh please, may I come, too?

3 rd Devotee: And, I have to leave soon and I couldn't bear not seeing Him before I go!

Sacimata: You were just here this morning!

2 nd Devotee: That was almost four hours ago!

Sacimata: Allright, come on.
(All four approach Nimai's cradle.)

Sacimata: Have you noticed how Nimai's eyebrows dance when He laughs?

2 nd Devotee: Yes.

3 rd Devotee: He has a face like the full moon!

Sacimata: Hmmmmmm. That's true!

1 st Devotee: I've thought that many times! When He looks at me, I feel so calm and happy, just like I'm bathing in moonlight.

2 nd Devotee: Nimai is better than moonlight because He shines during the day, too!

Sacimata: Oh! He's awake!

3 rd Devotee: And crying!

2 nd Devotee: Oh, good! Now He can see all of us before we go.

Sacimata: Hush, Nimai. Did we frighten you? Hush, my Angel.

1 st Devotee: (from far side) Saci, what has happened here? Look, there is ghee and milk all over the floor!

2 nd Devotee: Be careful or you'll slip!

Sacimata: (looking) Oh, my Krsna!

[2n]2 nd Devotee: Look at these smashed pots! Was there a thief in the house, do you think?

Sacimata: I didn't see anyone.

1 st Devotee: Neither did I.

2 nd Devotee: Who could have done this?

3 rd Devotee: Maybe it was Nimai.

Sacimata: Don't be silly, He's only four months old!

2 nd Devotee: Maybe it was a demon!

[3r]2 nd Devotee: Or a ghost!

Sacimata: A ghost!

1 st Devotee: Don't worry, she's just trying to tease you. Even if it was a demon, the Brahmanas know special mantras to make them go away.

Sacimata: That's an excellent idea. I'll have Jagannatha Misra have them come over immediately!
(She returns to Nimai.)
Hush Nimai, You're safe. It's allright.

1 st Devotee: Let's chant Hare Krsna. He always stops crying when we chant:

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Sacimata: There now, that's better! Would You like a sweet, my dear Child?

1 st Devotee: Don't spoil Him, Saci devi! You'll be sorry.

2 nd Devotee: Didn't you hear what the sage said at His birth? Nimai is the Supreme Lord Narayana, Himself!

Sacimata: Then, I'm sure it won't matter if He has another sweet!

1s1 st Devotee: Oh, allright, let me feed Him then!
(She takes plate of sweets from Saci devi.)

2 nd Devotee: No me!
d Devotee: I haven't given Him anything to eat all day!

3 rd Devotee: That's not fair; you fed Him yesterday!

2 nd Devotee: Just see what you have done! Now He's crying again!

1 st Devotee: Oh, Nimai, don't cry! Here, take this sweet.

2 nd Devotee: Quick, someone start chanting!

All: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Bhajan, lights dim, all exit.)

Scene Two

1 st Devotee: (Three devotees enter hurriedly) Saci devi!

Sacimata: Yes, I'm over here.

1 st Devotee: Did you hear about Nimai?

Sacimata: Nimai? What happened to Him? Is He allright?

1 st Devotee: Is He allright? You should ask about the poor Brahmanas He's been playing tricks on
What a rascal He is!

Sacimata: Oh, thank Heavens!

1 st Devotee: Thank Heavens He's playing tricks on the Brahmanas?

Sacimata: No, I didn' t mean that; I'm just happy that nothing has happened to my precious child, Nimai.

[1s]1 st Devotee: Oh, you can expect something to happen all right. My brother told me that Nimaipulled Keshava Pandit's legs right out from under him while he was standing in the Ganges River chanting his gayatri mantra, today.

Sacimata: No, not Keshava Pandit! He's always so serious!!

2 nd Devotee: And it takes him twice as long to chant gayatri as it does anyone else!

3 rd Devotee: Hush!

2 nd Devotee: Well, it's true. That must have been funny!

1 st Devotee: It was! My brother said that Keshava Pandita was so mad that his face looked just
like[a fish because his eyes got so big!!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: What did he do?

1 st Devotee: What did who do?

Sacimata: Keshava Pandit. He must have ran after Nimai?

2 nd Devotee: No one ever catches Nimai. He's too fast.

1 st Devotee: Of course he tried to run after Nimai, but he didn't get very far. He was huffing and puffing before he'd run even ten feet! You should have seen him!

2 nd Devotee: I wish I could have been there!

All: (laughter)

Sacimata: You girls should not speak so of your elders!

2 nd Devotee: Yes. Oh look, here's Rupa!

Sacimata: Hello Rupa. What brings you out here?

Rupa: I just wanted to drop off some mangoes from our garden.
(Rupa hands over a sack.)

Sacimata: How nice, thank you!

Rupa: Is Nimai here?

Sacimata: No, He's not back from bathing yet.

2 nd Devotee: You told me that you had to help your mother sew for the market on Sunday.

Rupa: Well, I do. Weren't you going to make butter, today?

2 nd Devotee: I did, I'm doing it I mean I'm almost done.
1 st Devotee: It's obvious that your son is like Cupid, Saci devi. He has captured all our hearts.

Rupa: Did you hear how Nimai stole Manu's offering, yesterday?

1st Devotee: I heard about it from my brother.

2 nd Devotee: I didn't hear about it at all, tell me.

Rupa: Manu had his eyes closed and Nimai crept up and grabbed the whole offering he was making - the laddus, the sweet rice, the garland - everything! Nimai even started to eat the sweets as He was running away.

2 nd Devotee: Did you ever hear of such a trick!

2 nd Devotee: Oh, that's not all. While Manu was chasing Him, Nimai kept yelling back, "You've called Me and I have come, why are you so angry?" And Nimai was laughing the whole time!

All: (laughter)

2 nd Devotee: I thought you didn't hear about it.

3 rd Devotee: Well, I may have heard part of it.

2 nd Devotee: He's so bad!

3 rd Devotee: Do you think He'll get a reaction for being so naughty?

1 st Devotee: You know, Saci devi, Nimai stays in the water until past two o'clock every day; that can't be good for His health.

2 nd Devotee: No, of course not.

Rupa: Saci Mata, your son has been behaving badly to us girls, lately when we go to bathe in the Ganges.

2 nd Devotee: You won't believe the mean tricks that He's been playing.

Sacimata: Oh, dear!

Rupa: Yesterday, we saw Him sneak up behind Chintamani and yell "HARI BOL!" right in her ear!

2 nd Devotee: He frightened her so that I thought she was going to faint!

Rupa: And that was after He took all the fruits and flowers we'd brought to the Ganges to use in our puja and threw them all over the banks!

2 nd Devotee: Who does Nimai think He is, a prince or something?

1 st Devotee: Actually, all these naughty pranks of His remind me of the pastimes of Gopal Krsna in Vrndavan.

Rupa: Saci devi, you really must discipline your child! He broke my Mother's butter pot again this week!

1 st Devotee: See? Just like Gopal!

Sacimata: Perhaps it was someone else.

Rupa: No, it was Nimai. I saw Him running behind our house.

Sacimata: I know He's mischievous and I have spoken to Him. I don't know why He does the things He does, truly I don't.

Rupa: He should be punished.

1 st Devotee: He needs to be taught a lesson.
(Another devotee enters. Syama! I didn't expect you until later. Why are you dressed so funny?
Whose clothes do you have on?

Syama: I don't know.

1 st Devotee: You don't know whose clothes you're wearing?

Syama: Honestly, I don't. I just came back from bathing. Nimai switched all the clothes. We had

to put on whatever we could find. When we chastised Him He said that we had better be careful or
He would curse us to have old husbands with four co-wives.

2 nd Devotee: Oh, Saci devi, can Nimai really do that!?

3 rd Devotee: Four co-wives? Oh no!

1s1 st Devotee: He really has outdone Himself today.

Rupa: Well, Saci Mata, what are you going to do?

1 st Devotee: Mark my words, He'll become a dacoit of some kind if you're not careful!

Rupa: Some of the Brahmanas are really mad; my Pita said so. I heard that they are coming over to talk to Jagannath Misra, this very day.

Sacimata: You are right. Nimai must be taught a good lesson. I've been patient until now, but I see that He must be severely punished.
1 st Devotee: What will you do to Him?

\2 nd Devotee: You won't punish Him too hard will you?

3 rd Devotee: After all, He's just mischievous.

Sacimata: Yes, that's true. He would never really hurt anybody.

Syama: It was really funny when no could find their clothes! Keshava Pandit had to wrap a pink sari around himself! He looked so humorous!!

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Look, there is Keshava Pandit running by now!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs by. He looks very embarrassed.)

All: (laughter)

Rupa: Have you ever noticed how Nimai's eyes dance when He's being naughty?

All: Oh, yes!

2 nd Devotee: His smile is like sweet nectar!

All: Yes! Just like nectar!

2 nd Devotee: You won't hurt him, will you, Saci devi? I mean, boys will be boys

3 rd Devotee: Yes, don't be too hard on Him.

Rupa: Look, there's Nimai! He's coming down the road!

2 nd Devotee: Just see his innocent face! He couldn't possibly have done anything wrong!

Rupa: Let's go out and see Him!

2 nd Devotee: I thought you had to go back and help your Mata.

Rupa: I will, I will!

2 nd Devotee: You just came here to see Nimai!

Rupa: So did you!
2 nd Devotee: I never said I didn't.
(Nimai enters their company.)

Rupa: Nimai, I brought you some mangoes!

Syama: I've brought you some sweets. They have coconut in them; I just made them for you today!
(Nimai, Rupa and Syama move away from the others.)

2 nd Devotee: How my heart beats every time I see Nimai's face!

2 nd Devotee: I thought it was just mine that did that!

2 nd Devotee: Who is this boy who has captivated our minds so?

3 rd Devotee: He's such a rascal, but at every moment that I don't see Him, it feels like it's been a lifetime!

1 st Devotee: How fortunate we are that Mother Saci's beautiful golden Child graces our village with His pastimes!

2 nd Devotee: Look, there goes Keshava Pandit again!
(Keshava Pandit, wearing a pink sari, runs through again, looking embarrassed. Everyone laughs.)
(Bhajan.)

The Deities of Gauri dasa Pandit

(a play taken from a lecture by Jayapataka Swami)
adapted by Madhuryalilananda devi dasi
New Talavana Gurukula, USA)

Narrator: Gauri dasa Pandit was a great devotee of Lord Caitanya that lived near Navadwip in West Bengal. Lord Caitanya was very merciful to him by personally being present while Deities were being make for Gauri dasa Pandit to worship. These deities were very unusual and had many unique pastimes.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: Gauri dasa Pandit, it is time for us to leave. We have been here much too long.

Nityananda Prabhu: Yes, We really must leave now.

Gauri dasa:: No you can't leave! Who will I talk to? Who will be my friend? If You leave than how will I be able to live? You have to stay here with me!

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: How can I stay? I have so many other devotees that I have to see. We can't stay here all the time.

Gauri dasa:: Well then, if You can't stay here, then I will have Deities made of You and Nityananda so that I can worship Them while You are gone. That will give me some happiness while You are away.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: I can't Have Deities made in My presence! This is not my pastime.

Gauri dasa:: No! No! I don't care. Either You give me a set of Deities of You and Nitai, or You both stay here with me. I won't let You go. So You decide.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: All right. How can I say no to My devotee?

Narrator: So, special Deities were carved for Gauri dasa right in the presence of Lord Caitanya. When they were done Caitanya Mahaprabhu approached Gauri dasa for his permission to leave.
(Actors for the Deities are standing on the alter when they open the curtain.)

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: All right, Gauri dasa, the Deities are ready now. It is time for us to go.

Gauri dasa: No, I've changed my mind.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: (surprised) What do you mean,you've changed your mind?

Gauri dasa:: I've changed my mind. You must stay! You say that the Deities are nondifferent from You, so let the Deities go and

You and Nityananda Prabhu stay here with me. **(Caitanya Mahaprabhu and**

Nityananda Prabhu look at each other and smile.)

Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu: All right.
(Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu hold up their hands like the Deities and the Deities on the altar put their hands down and start walking away.)

Gauri dasa:: No! No! You're tricking me. Stop! Come back!

Deities: All right, we'll stay.
(The Deities put up Their arms and Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu put down Their arms and walk away.)

Gauri dasa: No, no- it's You Two I want! I'm sure of it!!

Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu: All right. We'll stay. **(They hold up Their hands and the Deities start walking off.)**

Gauri dasa: (Running after the new Gaura and Nitai) No! No! You must stay here! You're tricking me! Don't leave me!!!
No! Let them go **(Pointing to the deities)**! You stay here with me.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu: All right.

Gauri dasa: No,no, come back. You go and You go! You stay and You stay!!

Narrator: This happens so many times that after a while Gauri dasa forgot which set was originally Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu and which ones were the Deities. Finally, in frustration, Gauri dasa agrees to let Two leave.

Narrator: For many years, Gauri dasa Pandit very faithfully and devotedly worships his Gaura Nitai Deities. One year, around the time of Gaura Purnima, he had to leave for a while.

Gauri dasa:: Hridayananda, come here.
(Hridayananda comes in and offers his obeisances)

Gauri dasa:: Hridayananda, I must go away for a few days. I want you to take care of my Gaura Nitai Deities while I am gone.

Hridayananda: This is a great honor!. Thank you very much! I will be very careful with Their worship. (

Gauri dasa: I know I can trust you, because you are a pure devotee of Their Lordships. (Gauri dasa leaves.)

Hridayananda: I must be very careful in worshiping my spiritual master's Deities. Let me see, Lord Caitanya's birthday is very soon. We had better hold a huge festival for the pleasure of the

Deities. **(He thinks for a minute.)** We will need lots of prasadam to distribute. We can invite all the devotees of Lord Caitanya

from the neighboring villages. I better make a list of what we will need. **(He walks off stage)**

Narrator: Hridayananda organized a huge festival. He ordered all kinds of vegetables, fruits, grains, milk, yogurt, and ghee. Many devotees were invited from neighboring villages and first-class arrangements were made for them.
(Hridayananda is organizing the festival, people are walking back and forth with bags of grain, and baskets of vegetables, and jugs of milk. Hridayananda is directing things as people ask him questions. Gauri dasa enters on the side and watches for a minute unseen by Hridayananda. In an angry mood he walks over to Hridayananda:)

Gauri dasa: What is going on here? Hridayananda, what is all this?

Hridayananda: (Hridayananda offers his obeisances to his guru.) We are getting ready for the Gaura Purnima festival!

Gauri dasa: You are having a festival and you didn't ask me? Without the permission of your guru, your spiritual master, you go ahead and have a festival? NO! You can't have this festival!

Hridayananda: (Very Humbly) Yes, Gurudeva.

Gauri dasa: Forget about this festival! Go and chant your japa by the Ganges!

Hridayananda: Yes, Gurudeva. **(He offers obeisances and goes to the side of the stage and sits and starts chanting. A produce seller enters. The man goes to Hridayananda who directs him to Gauri dasa.)**

Devotee 1: Where do these vegetables and grains go?

Gauri dasa: (Surprised) What? Vegetables and grains? Oh, I guess to the temple kitchen.

Devotee 2: Where does this milk go?

Gauri dasa:: Milk? I don't know. Put it over there **(points to where the last devotee put the produce.)**

Devotee 3: (comes in with a big burlap sack) Where does all this rice go? I have six more men with rice, too!

Gauri dasa:: That's quite a lot of rice! Take it to the temple kitchen, I guess.

Devotee 4: There are fifty devotees from the next village to the north, seventy five devotees from the village to the south, and one hundred and fifty devotees from the village across the Ganges that want to know where they will be staying during the festival.
Gauri dasa:: Oh dear, Hridayananda, come here right now!
(Hridayananda runs to his guru and offers obeisances.)

Gauri dasa:: All right, have your festival. There is so much produce- we have to use it up; and we wouldn't want to disappoint all these devotees!

Hridayananda: Jaya! Hari bol! **(Hridayananda starts directing everyone. Several more devotees have come in needing to know where to go.)**

Hridayananda: Prabhu, put this in the festival kitchen. This goes to the temple, that goes to the men's quarters. Can you get a group together to roll puris? Please make sure that the offering is on time.

Devotee 1: The offering is ready for the Deities now.
(Hridayananda goes over to Gauri dasa.)

Hridayananda: The offering is ready for your Gaura Nitai Deities now.

Gauri dasa: Good, bring it over while I get ready. Go and start the kirtan. **(Hridayananda brings the plate to Gauri dasa and Gauri dasa puts the offering plate on a table. He is standing so that he is not facing the Deities. He is doing achman and getting things ready. Hridayananda has gone to the other side of the stage and has started a kirtan with the devotees. While Gauri dasa has his back turned to the Deities, Caitanya and Nityananda look over to the kirtan and decide to join it. They sneak off the altar and join the kirtan, standing in the back. No one notices them. Gauri dasa turns around to put the plate on the altar and sees that the Deities are gone.)**

Gauri dasa:: Yaaaaa!!!! Where are Nitai Gaura??! Where are Nitai Gaura. They were just here! The Deities are gone! **(He runs to center stage)** Where are Nitai Gaura? NO!NO!NO! They are cheating me again. They've run off! **(He runs around looking for them behind some of the props. Finally he sees them with the devotees in the kirtan, dancing.)**

Gauri dasa:: There they are; They are trying to cheat me again!
(He picks up a stick and starts to chase them around the stage. Gaura Nitai look around and start to run, trying several times to hide.)

Gauri dasa:: Get back in the temple right now! Nitai Gaura, You don't cheat me, You get back in the temple right now!! Don't You run off like this!!!

(Nitai Gaura hide in Hridayananda's heart. To do this they hide behind some scenery. While Hridayananda has had his back turned in the kirtan he has taken out of shirt a big picture of Gaura Nitai on a red heart on a string around his neck.)

Gauri dasa:: There They are! They are hiding in your heart, Hridayananda!

Hridayananda: (Surprised) In my heart?! **(He looks at his chest, so does everyone else.)**

Gauri dasa:: Nitai Gaura are hiding in your heart! **(He walks over to Hridayananda shaking his stick.)** Get out of his heart immediately! Get back in the temple where You are supposed to be!
(Nityananda Prabhu and Caitanya Mahaprabhu leave Their hiding place and Hridayananda turns around so he can put the picture back in his shirt. Gauri dasa follows Gaura and Nitai onto the altar.)

Gauri dasa: (yelling) You don't ever do that again! **(a bit softer:)** If you leave then I'll be friendless! I'll have no one to talk to, no one to offer prasadam to! You just can't go and run away like that! It is very disturbing!! **(Gaura Nitai stand back up on the altar like Deities. Gauri dasa puts the offering in front of them.)**

Gauri dasa: Now take your prasadam. It's getting cold! **(He closes the curtains and leaves.)** Hridayananda, come here. **(Hridayananda comes over, the other devotees follow.)**
From now on your name will be Hridayacaitanya because Lord Caitanya hid in your heart.

Devotees: Jaya! Hari bol!

Gauri dasa: And don't ever leave the Deities curtain open longer than a minute or two! I don't want Nitai Gaura getting attached to any other devotees and running off! Now,start the kirtan again!

KIRTAN.

HARIDAS THAKURA AND THE HARLOT

from *Sri Chaitanya-Bhagavata, Adi-lila* Chapter 16

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CAST: Ramachandra Khan, 3 prostitutes Champaka, Parijata and Padmini, Haridas Thakura.

SCENE ONE

(The sitting room of the local Muslim governor of Jagannath Puri, Ramachandra Khan. Three prostitutes are waiting)

Champaka: I wonder what Ramachandra Khan has brought us here for the three most beautiful society girls in the village?

Parijata: Well, he is a Hindu chieftain, with a large following and vast sums of wealth to command. Whatever it is, I'm sure it will be to our advantage!

Padmini: Yes, it's all very exciting!

Champaka: Did he mention anything to either of you about a secret mission?

Parijata: Yes, but he wouldn't say any more than that. I wish he'd get here soon!

Padmini: Patience, dear sisters!

Champaka: I think I hear footsteps coming this way. **(they quickly sit and assume poses)**

Khan: Good evening, ladies! **(they all acknowledge, he goes around and takes each one's hand)** I am so glad you have come here tonight. As I told you briefly, I would have need of your services in a matter which is very important to me. I am very disturbed about the presence in our village of a character named... named... well, they call him Haridas, although he is actually a low-class Muslim by birth. He does not understand our sophisticated Hindu culture and religion. He is inducting low-class people to overstep their bounds and engage in brahminical activities. And all over people are neglecting their work and join in this annoying chanting of *mantras.* It is a disturbance to society. Anyway, he is posing as a *sadhu,* and many innocent people

are being deceived. But, my friends and I have devised a plan to discredit him. That's why I called for all of you.

Parijata: And what exactly do you need, sir?

Khan: I would like all of you to spoil the character of this Haridas. He is young and sentimental, and I think he would be an easy victim to the temptations which you might put before him. His falldown will be a great help in stopping these religion-mongers once and for all.

Champaka: Sir, forgive me this plan of yours is very interesting to me in all ways but one.

Khan: What is that?

Champaka: It is this person, Haridas. I do not know very much about spiritual advancement, but I have had occasion to see this man, and I do not think I could be part of this plan. I believe he is a genuine holy man.

Khan: I promise you that the reward will change your mind. **(he brings out jewels)**

Champaka: Sir, ask me this mission for anyone else and I will accept; but not Haridas Thakura. No, I could not do it. Thank you anyway. **(she leaves)**

Khan: Well, and what about you two?

Parijata: I am not sure, either. I have heard some very unusual stories about this Haridas. Many people believe he is glorious. He is a source of inspiration to countless villagers who come from near and far to see him.

Khan: They are mistaken. I tell you he is an imposter. Here, maybe this will change your mind. **(he offers her some gold coins)** Now what do you say?

Parijata: It is very tempting, but no. I am afraid I must also refuse your generous offer. My sins are great enough without causing the falldown of a *sadhu,* even if he is just pretending. I am sorry. Good evening. **(she leaves, and Ramachandra Khan turns to Padmini)**

Khan: Well?

Padmini: I don't know. You plan is beginning to sound a little dangerous...

Khan: How would you like me to set you up in your own private house, with servants to care for you?

Padmini: That would be very nice!

Khan: So?

Padmini: All right, I'll do it.

Khan: Good!

Padmini: I can assure you that I will ruin the character of this Haridas within three days' time.

Khan: Oh happy day! I can't wait! I will supply you with everything you need for success!

Padmini: Good. Then it is settled.

Khan: When you go to see him, I think you should take an armed guard with you to catch him in the act, you know.

Padmini: I don't think that is necessary yet. First let me go by myself and win his confidence, then the next time a guard may accompany me.

Khan: As you wish. My dear, if you are successful you will make me a very happy man!

Padmini: What do you mean, If I am successful? I am beginning to think that this will be the most successful venture of my life!

SCENE TWO

(Inside Haridas's hut. Haridas is seated, chanting with deep concentration. Tulasi Devi is planted by his side. Padmini enters, offers obeisances, and stands for a while. Then she slowly sits down near him, sensuously. She lets her hair down and moves very close to him. When he does not respond, she finally speaks:)

Padmini: O holy sir! You are so young and handsome. How can you live alone, forsaking the customary pleasures of this world? Upon seeing you, what woman would not feel her passion rise? I do not think there is any such lady in the world! Please forgive me, but I have fallen a slave to lust by the sight of your charming appearance. I cannot help myself. If you do not accept me, it will be impossible for me to live!

Haridas: I shall certainly accept your proposal, but I have made a vow to chant a certain number of Holy Names, and as soon as I complete my fixed quota, I shall be able to fulfill your request. In the meantime, please be seated here and listen to the chanting of the Holy Name. **(she waits patiently. Lights dim and then come up to show the passing of night. Disappointed, she rises and leaves)**

SCENE THREE

(Ramachandra Khan's house)

Khan: Ah! My lovely one! Are you successful?

Padmini: Not exactly, sir.

Khan: What happened?

Padmini: I saw him, and I spoke with him. He is interested in me, but he has

accepted a certain number of Holy Names to chant and did not quite complete his vow. However, I can assure you that by this evening he will be finished, and then our desire will be fulfilled.

Khan: **(laughing)** Oh, it is good news to hear this! When his reputation is ruined, the people will forget all about this spiritual nonsense and go back to the execution of their proper duties!

Padmini: Very soon you will have what you desire.

SCENE FOUR

(Later in Haridas Thakura's hut. Padmini enters, bows and approaches him)

Haridas: I am sorry that you were disappointed earlier. Please do not be upset with me. I will not fail to accept you, don't worry. Until I finish my quota of names, please stay and listen. As soon as the number is completed, you will have your heart's desire. **(she sits and waits. Lights down and up. She becomes restless and impatient)**

Padmini: How can you do this to me? I need to feel your tender regard!!!

Haridas: I have taken a vow of chanting 300,000 Names of Lord Krishna during this month. I am almost finished. I expected to be done this night, but I have not succeeded. By tomorrow I am sure my vow will be fulfilled and then I will be able to enjoy your company freely. **(disappointed, she leaves)**

SCENE FIVE

(Ramachandra Khan's house. Padmini enters)

Khan: Well, what is the good news?

Padmini: I don't understand him at all! He insists that he will satisfy me, and then he becomes completely absorbed in his chanting and seems to forget that I even exist! I don't know what to do. I have never had such a difficult time seducing someone!

Khan: Do you think he suspects our plan?

Padmini: I don't know... I don't think so. I am beginning to wonder if...

Khan: If what?

Padmini: If he might be a real *sadhu.*

Khan: I assure you he is not.

Padmini: Then I have lost all my charms!

Khan: I assure you *that* is not true, either. Do not be discouraged. He has simply made a show of this vow of artificial renunciation; but secretly he is thinking of you and is waiting anxiously to be joined with you. I am sure that tonight everything will go as planned, and soon we can reveal his false nature to the rest of the village.

Padmini: Perhaps you are right.

SCENE SIX

(Haridas Thakura's hut. Padmini enters, bows and sits)

Haridas: I am glad you have returned. I will definitely complete the number of rounds tonight and fulfill your wish. In the meantime, why don't you join me in chanting the *mantras?* **(he begins to chant and she joins in. Suddenly she bows at his feet and exclaims:)**

Padmini: O Master! Please forgive my offenses at your lotus feet! I am the worst of sinners! Being a harlot by profession, there is hardly any sin that I have not committed! I can now understand that you are not an ordinary person. You are a jewel amongst the devotees of the Lord. Under the instructions of the villain, Ramachandra Khan, I have shamelessly tried to contaminate your devotional heart; but my evil inclinations are totally destroyed. Please have mercy on me and deliver me from this sinful condition!

Haridas: I am fully aware of the evil plots of Ramachandra Khan. He doesn't know what he is doing. I wish him well. It is only for your sake that I continued my stay in this village for these three days. If not, I would have left on the very first day.

Padmini: Please help me become free of the miseries of material existence!

Haridas: First give away all of your wealth, and then you may come here and take shelter in this hut. Chant the Holy Name constantly and worship the sacred Tulasi plant. In a short time, I am sure you will attain the lotus feet of Sri Krishna.

SCENE SEVEN

(In Haridas's hut. Padmini enters, reformed, with offerings of fruit and flowers. Champaka and Parijata approach hut while talking among themselves)

Champaka: Who would have though that the scheme of that old rascal, Ramachandra Khan, would change our lives in such a drastic way?

Parijata: First of all, I couldn't believe our friend Padmini accepted his offer, and then I couldn't believe she became a devotee, and now I can't believe that she's convinced us to change, too!

Champaka: The power of the Holy Names of the Lord can really work miracles!

Parijata: And association with a pure devotee, too.

Champaka: Yes, it's really astonishing; she lives so simply now! She even gave away all her beautiful things and only eats uncooked foods.

Parijata: Sometimes she fasts for days!

Champaka: And people who once hated her now feel it's a great privilege to meet her!

Parijata: What a wonder! All glories to Srila Haridas Thakura!!!

Champaka: And what about Ramachandra Khan?

Parijata: I know it appears that his offenses against the devotees has finally caught up with him. He got so puffed-up that he stopped paying taxes to the Muslims.

Champaka: But then the ruler was offended and forcibly took over his property and put him and his family in prison.

Parijata: He lost everything his caste, his wealth, his relations. I guess he deserved it.

Champaka: Here she is!

Padmini: Welcome, dear friends. Please accept my obeisances. All glories to Haridas Thakura, the most merciful devotee of the Lord! His glory is so great that even one who was once the cause of the downfall of many, and a repository of many foul deeds, can become a devotee of the Lord. I had no aptitude for philosophy, nor was I convinced by argument or mystic powers. Simply by hearing and chanting the Holy Name of the Lord under the guidance of a pure devotee, I was blessed with a taste of spiritual ecstasy and Divine Realization. And this can be true for anyone; no matter how sinful, lusty, greedy or envious they may be. So please take shelter of the Holy Name of the Lord and make your life sublime! **(they have a *kirtan*)**

The End

The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Three - Nimai Pandit's Sankirtan Movement

Haridas Thakur Comes to Navadvip

Scene One - In Front of Sri Advaita Acharya's House

Srivasa: Who is Haridasa Thakur?

Advaita: Haridas Thakur is a great devotee of the Lord. He appeared in a family of Muslims, but he chants incessantly the Holy Name of Lord Krsna. Haridas Thakur makes no distinction among men, whether high or low and wherever devotional activities are in progress, he is seen in the midst of it all. His high degree of devotion activities are truly wonderful. Nawab Hussein Shah, the Muslim Emperor, hearing about him ordered his arrest. When Haridas Thakur was brought, bound, to his court, the Nawab was livid with anger. He cries, "What behavior is this? Why have you accepted the religion of a "Kafir," a non-believer?

Haridas replied, "The Lord is Supreme and Omnipotent. He appears in many forms but He accepts a human form specifically to redeem the fallen conditioned souls. The Supreme Lord is one, but to show special favor to His unalloyed devotees, He appears in different incarnations - thus seeming to be many. In whatever way the Lord wishes to reveal Himself to His devotees, they worship Him accordingly.

There is no distinction between Hindu, Muslim or Christian - whoever worships the Lord with devotion, his human-life is successful. The consideration of high or low is but a perversion of the mind. In whatever way the Lord showers His grace upon us, gratefully we should worship Him.

Srivasa: Oh, how glorious! It is wonderful to hear this! The Nawab must have been glad to hear this!

Advaita: The foolish Nawab paid no heed to the spiritual instructions. Rather, he acted on the poisonous advice of his Muslim pontiff and ordered his guards, (louder) "go and whip this knave in all the market places and if, after this, he is still alive, then I will be convinced about the authenticity of his religion."

Srivasa: How terrible!

Advaita: For one who has taken complete shelter of the Lord, what can a mere Governor do? They savagely rained whip-lashes upon him but to Haridas they were as a fresh shower of flowers. The Nawab, upon hearing about how Haridas had prayed for the guards, "O Merciful Lord, forgive these guards, for they are not responsible for their actions," fell down at the feet of Haridas and begged forgiveness. Haridas Thakur satisfied the Nawab with warm and affectionate words but would not stay overnight, preferring to return to his bare hut to continue his meditations.

Srivasa: Really! How many pious deeds he must have performed to be crowned with such deep devotion. He has shown his devotion by example as well as words.

Advaita: I have heard that this holiest of saints will be coming here. By his favor, our devotion will certainly increase. There was once a destitute prostitute who simply by his association achieved firm realization of Lord Krsna.

Srivasa: What are the details? Please tell us.

Advaita: Some rascal, in an attempt to discredit Thakur Haridas, sent a woman of ill-repute to his lonely cottage. Arriving in the evening, she frankly expressed that she wanted her base carnal desires satisfied by him. Haridas Thakur replied that he could not do any activity until he had fulfilled his vow of chanting a prescribed number of Holy Names. She sat the entire night and listened to the Thakur's chanting. The sun rose and he told her to come back that evening. That night and the next were like the first night. The prostitute, overwhelmed with awe and reverence, threw herself at the feet of Haridas Thakur. The kindly sage initiated the repentant woman into the chanting of the Lord's Holy Name and left that place to her. Now, Vaisnavas come from miles around to hear from this renounced lady as she absorbs herself day and night in devotional service.

Srivasa: Just see! A devotee is a touchstone - turning iron into gold! When is Haridas Thakur coming our way?

Advaita: I do not know exactly when, but I have heard that soon he will come to Nadia.

Scene Two

Neighbor: Hey, now listen here! Are you not going to allow anyone to sleep? As soon as a few of you get together, you start howling like wolves! Without shrieking, your Lord Hari cannot hear or what? (pointing at Mukunda) Now, you have also ganged up with them, poisoning the entire land? What else! Hailing from a good family, giving up work and household just to join the club, and bray like an ass!

Mukunda: But sir, we simply glorify the Supreme Lord, Hari and nothing else. We perform congregational chanting.

Neighbor: If you are singing the glories of the Lord, then why do you bray like asses? Is it not possible to repeat the Lord's name softly in one's mind? How is it possible to study in such unruly conditions - always someone is wailing, "O Lord of my heart! Where are You now!" It sounds like some frivolous refrain, a new concoction! I warn you, no good will come of it.
Are the people who work to make this city great not supposed to sleep so that they can "benefit" from your devotions? I warn you, after a hard day's work, people want their peace and quiet and their recreation.

2nd Neighbor: Does a Vaisnava sleep with open eyes, singing, "Do not sleep my mind! Do not sleep my mind!" I make it clear to you, mister, this can't go on in Nadia!

Srivasa: Nadia is the place for chanting Lord Hari's name for here Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu will inaugerate the Sankirtan Movement. From here, this chanting will spread to every town and village.

2nd Neighbor: I shall go to the other important men in town and tell them that you people are stubborn and uncooperative. If they want you out of Nadia, then you will be!
(they leave)

Srivasa: O Savior of the Weak, when will devotion rise within their hearts? How long before the residents of Nadia become maddened with the Lord's Holy Name?

Advaita: I can see with my transcendental vision that soon the Lord's name will be propagated all over the Universe like a tidal wave. Fully intoxicated with the Lord's honey-dew name, day and night shall pass in thrill. What fear does a Vaisnava have when the heart is saturated with

the Holy Name? Sing Hari's Name with all your energy, Brothers!

All: Haribol! Jai Radhe!
(kirtan)

Advaita: How fine! How wonderful! What stranger is that in the kirtan, singing with such a melodious voice? He looks like a perfect Vaisnava - full of life, bright as the sun! He must be some great sadhu.

Haridas: (stepping forward) Respected sir, I am Haridas, a humble servant of Lord Hari. I came here, attracted by your kirtan, to associate with the Lord's devotees. Now my life has attained perfection. Please tell me about Lord Krsna; appease my parched soul.

All: Haribol! Haribol!

Advaita: Blessed truly is the land of Nadia, and here is that great saint that we have heard so much about - an embodiment of pure devotion! Now that you have come to my residence, allow me to hear about Lord Krsna from you!

Haridas: Dear sir, I had one wish in my heart, that the Holy Name will engladden all. Now I perceive deep within me, that the propagator of the Holy Name has taken birth. He's here, I have come to see Him.

Srivasa: Who is this preacher? How long will it be before we can freely chant the Lord's name? In a great festive mood, the Vaisnavas will congregate. In ecstatic joy, flood the atmosphere with singing and chanting!

Haridas: Then kindly hear - last night, as I was in deep meditation, I beheld with spriritual vision an exquisite form - He was full of transcendental brilliance and spoke with honey-mellow tones, instructing me to come to Nadia saying, "I have appeared in the human form in Nadia to distribute the Lord's Holy Name; but the time is not yet right. When all the Vaisnavas from everywhere assemble in Nadia, then the festival of the Holy Names will commence!"

Advaita: I told you! I told you all that our very own Lord, Krsna, has appeared! Now the entire world will be flooded with the Holy Names. Hear this confirmed by a sadhu. What do I fear now? No more inhibitions will I entertain - come let us "wail and bray" to our heart's content!

All: Haribol! Haribol! Haribol!

Devotee: Srila Haridas Thakur! My mind is like the turbulent waters of an ocean of anxiety! I pray at your lotus feet - I would like to hear something about devotion from you. Please instruct me - what is left of devotion without jnana or knowledge?

Haridas: You have inquired about the science of devotion - this is truly kind of you; I shall say as much as I know. To acquire knowledge, one has to undergo severe austerities and physical pains in order to conquer the carnal urges. This process is dry and boring. But, devotion to Lord Krsna is a priceless gem in the inner sanctorum of the heart. There is no one who is refused this treasure, whether he be poor or weak.
The nectarean taste of devotion sweetens the days and nights. Devotion is the rarest prize of human birth, where even sensual enjoyments and salvation kneels down fawning - Ah! Fathomless is the profundity of devotion.

2nd Devotee: How can devotion bloom in my heart without knowledge to guide me? I have been analyzing matter by speculative means in order to understand the essence of all

perceptions. What other knowledge can distinguish reality from imagination?

Haridas: The exalted realm of devotion is something very unique. There is no consideration of auspicious or inauspicious in its execution. The mind takes whatever course it will, independent of reason or circumstances. The entire being, once magnetized by devotion, ridicules material gains and failures. Devotion is the very life and devotion is the only cause of devotion.

3rd Devotee: This does not sound very consistent. If the mind goes where it desires, then what is the condition of our intelligence, morality, and character? How can we then vanquish the vices?

Haridas: The one who makes a distinction between proper and improper is in need of intelligence or a sense of morality to suppress his base instincts. But, he who is without material desires, what power does he lack?

Just ponder a while - the cowherd damsels of Vrndavana would run to see Krsna without any apparent reason. They voluntarily invite illrepute. Oblivious to all else, they freely wept, being unable to see Krsna. Sobbing, they kept repeating, "Where is Krsna, the light of my life, my treasure?" I consider that these ladies have achieved devotion with great ease and without treading the analytical path to approach the Supreme Truth.

2nd Devotee: It is understandable, the joy the gopis felt on seeing Krsna, but why did they feel such pain at the thought of separation from Krsna?

Haridas: Knowledge emphatically denounces attachment and suffering, yet just see what devotional emotions are in play in Vrndavana? Ever fresh loving mellows bloom like fragrant flowers, without consideration of pain or pleasure, right or wrong. Their whole consciousness is absorbed in Krsna, whether sad or cheerful. No logic can influence the gopis.

Srivasa: What is the use of futile arguments? Come, let us sing the glories of the Lord together!

2nd Devotee: Today, I have received a new life. Haribol! Haribol!

Advaita: Come Thakurji, let us go inside and sing behind closed doors, otherwise these atheists will vex us.
(Everyone leaves.)

THE BEATING OF HARIDAS THAKURA

from *Sri Chaitanya-Bhagavata, Adi-lila* Chapter 16

* * * * *

CAST: Haridas Thakura, 2 Hindus, 2 Guards, Narrator, 2 Muslims, Kazi.

Narrator: About 500 years ago, during the time of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, lived a great saint and devotee named Haridas Thakura. Haridas is known as the *Namacharya*, which means the one who taught the chanting of the Holy Name of the Lord by his personal example. He used to chant at least 300,000 Holy Names every day, in his ecstasy of devotional service. While chanting, he sometimes manifested extraordinary symptoms by laughing, crying, rolling on the ground or falling into trance. In this way, Haridas showed by his own pure example that the chanting of the name of Krishna is the highest pleasure of all. Sometimes it is seen that such a great devotee is put to a severe test by Krishna Himself, just to show the whole world that the pure devotee is forever situated in a transcendental position, beyond the miseries of the material world. This play tells about one such test, which established beyond any doubt the greatness of Haridas Thakura.

SCENE ONE

(Haridas is sitting by the side of the road, chanting loudly with great pleasure. Then several Muslims approach)

Muslim 1: Just see this man here! I happen to know that he is Muslim by birth, but due to poor association he is trying to imitate the Hindus. He is a disgrace to his Muslim ancestry!

Muslim 2: Not only that, my dear brother, but he is trying to persuade other Muslims to adopt the same degraded Vaishnava practices!

Muslim 1: No!

Muslim 2: Yes, it's true. Why, just the other day in Navadvipa I saw him and one of those other fanatics, Nityananda, going door to door asking people to chant the names of their God!

Muslim 1: This is outrageous! Who knows what effect this could have on the entire Muslim community if this Haridas is allowed to carry on in this way?

Muslim 2: Why don't we approach our Muslim city official? I'm sure that when

he hears about this situation, he will put a stop to this Haridas and his chanting.

Muslim 1: Excellent idea, friend. Come, let's go immediately! **(they exit while Haridas continues chanting, Then two *smarta brahmanas* enter talking. They become disturbed when they see Haridas)**

Hindu 1: O best of the *smarta brahmanas,* just see this heretic. Without any consideration for the complex rules and regulations of the Vedas, this shameless man is bent on bringing our noble religion down into the filthy streets. This makes a mockery of the Vedic ritualistic ceremonies! This will ruin Hinduism!

Hindu 2: Not only that, but this man is a *mleccha,* a meat-eating Muslim from birth. Unlike ourselves, being born of pure *brahmana* parents, this imitator of brahminical culture was born of parents who are fond of eating the flesh of the sacred cow!

Hindu 1: If this low-born man is allowed to go on like this, people may get the wrong idea. They may believe that religion in this age is a simple matter of chanting Hare Krishna! Thus they will do away with the complicated Vedic rituals, which only caste *brahmanas* like ourselves can really understand. Thus we will lose our social prestige!

Hindu 2: This is true, my fellow *brahmana.* Why, if we don't stop this character immediately... who knows? The whole world might follow his example and become Krishna conscious! Then they will no longer call on specialists like ourselves to perform the elaborate sacrifices and ceremonies mentioned in the Vedas. Ordinarily, the common men have very little knowledge of these religious performances. They are not trained in chanting the Vedic *mantras* with the proper pronunciation and meter as we are. Therefore, they call upon us to conduct such sacrifices, marriages and offerings to the ancestors. After we come and put on a nice colorful show of elaborate ritual they pay us handsomely! If the chanting of simpler *mantras* becomes popular, people will give up those big sacrifices and pompous rituals, and simply hold sing-a-longs! If Haridas isn't stopped, he'll ruin the livelihood of all the professional *brahmanas* like us!

Hindu 1: **(aghast)** What a dreadful thought! What can we do?

Hindu 2: I think we should go immediately to the city magistrate and complain to him. Perhaps he'll put a stop to this before it's to late.

Hindu 1: Good idea! He is a Muslim, and ordinarily he wouldn't be so inclined to help us out since we are Hindus. But I think we can color our story in such a way that he too becomes alarmed about the activities of this

Haridas. Listen, as I explain: what if we told the Kazi... **(becomes inaudible as they move off stage. Haridas continues chanting throughout, and when they are gone, he leaps to his feet and cries out loudly:)**

Haridas: *Hare Krishna!* In any circumstance of life, whether in happiness or distress, simply chant the Holy Name of the Lord, and take shelter of his Lotus Feet. Krishna promises to give His devotees all protection, so you need not fear! **(he leaves stage chanting loudly)**

SCENE TWO

(The Kazi, the Muslim ruler, is sitting on a throne. Guards are standing on both sides, holding long spears. Muslims and Hindus are standing nearby. They are concluding their conversation with the Kazi)

Hindu 1: So, your honor, in conclusion we feel that if this Haridas is allowed to go on unchecked, he will gradually gain enough followers, not only to disrupt the religious balance in your district, but eventually to organize a political party to oppose your rule! We are convinced that this is his secret motive. So, you would do well to take steps to stop him now before he becomes too strong! **(turns and looks at the other Hindu, with conspiratorial smirk on his face. The Kazi, who looks as though he has been listening to many long complaints from both groups, perks up suddenly, when he of hears of this plot against him. He looks about nervously)**

Kazi: Thank you, gentlemen, and also you **(to the Muslims)** for bringing this serious situation to my attention! I assure you that I will act without delay! **(they all exit, and Kazi sits in a reflective mood)** It seems that there may be more to this Haridas business than I thought at first. When the Muslims and Hindus first complained, I thought it was just some petty jealousy. Their charges that this Haridas is ruining their religion are mostly nonsense, of course. They themselves are the real cause of their own ruination. Especially those caste *brahmanas.* They would do anything to maintain their false prestige, and especially their income! **(chuckles in a bitter or derogatory way)** And those Muslims can't be trusted very far, either! **(sits up and becomes more serious)**

But this suggestion that the whole thing might be a false cover for a political uprising can't be dismissed so lightly! It could just be that this person Haridas is simply pretending this religious fervor of chanting Hare Krishna, and that his real intent is to ultimately take over the government. Of course, it seems unlikely; his chanting is harmless in itself, and some people even claim that he is a saint. Nevertheless... **(trails off, Kazi is lost in thought for a moment, then barks abruptly)** Guards! **(two guards enter)** Go out and arrest this man they call Haridas Thakura, and bring him here at once! **(as they exit hurriedly, Kazi settles back in a grim mood)**

SCENE THREE

(Kazi is seated as before, reading and signing some papers. Just then the guards enter, dragging Haridas. The Kazi stands up, and they throw Haridas as his feet. Haridas is chanting loudly)

Guard 1: This is the one they call Haridas, your excellency.

Kazi: Well, get up, man! **(Haridas slowly gets to his feet, chanting softly, as Kazi walks around him slowly)** So, you are the cause of all these complaints, eh? Your name is Haridas?

Haridas: That is correct, sir.

Kazi: Well, Haridas, I may inform you that you are causing quite a disturbance in my district with your religious antics.

Haridas: I'm afraid I don't understand, sir.

Kazi: I'm talking about this chanting of yours. I've been told that you're walking here and there in my district, shouting the names of the Hindu God, at the top of your lungs. Not only that, but people say that you sometimes make a spectacle of yourself by falling on the ground, crying, laughing, rolling in the dust and drooling. Is this true?

Haridas: If people say this about me, sir, it must be so.

Kazi: **(raising his voice)** Well, it's getting on peoples' nerves! **(abruptly calms down)** I know that you were born and raised in a nice Muslim family. Tell me why have you abandoned your own true religion to take up this nonsense Hindu chanting?

Haridas: Actually, sir, there is no question of abandoning religion, for real religion is an eternal function of every living entity. We may call ourselves Muslims or Hindus as a matter of social convenience, but the fact is that we are all eternal servants of the Almighty God, who is the Father of everyone. He can be called by so many names, like Allah, Krishna, Rama and Hari but by whatever name He is known, He remains the same Supreme Person. And the best method of worshiping Him in this age is by the loud and incessant chanting of His Holy Names!

Kazi: Why does it have to be loud? Why can't you just say some quiet prayers or something?

Haridas: Whoever hears the Holy Name of Lord is benefited. Loud chanting of Hare Krishna, therefore, benefits not only the human beings, but also the trees, plants, insects and all other living beings. One should therefore not be disturbed by the loud chanting of Hare Krishna, for it is beneficial not only to the chanter but to everyone who gets an opportunity to hear.

Kazi: **(irritated)** All right, all right! Let me get to the point. Both the Hindus and the Muslims in my district are angry about this chanting of yours. Obviously they don't want it going on around here, and my duty as the magistrate is to satisfy these citizens. Therefore, I order you to stop this practice of chanting at once, and return peacefully to your own Muslim traditions.

Haridas: I'm very sorry, sir, but I cannot comply with your order.

Kazi: Why not? I have nothing against you, Haridas. You appear sincere and

full of good intentions. I have no wish to punish you but I cannot tolerate insubordination! Why won't you obey me?

Haridas: I have no desire to be disrespectful, sir. You are an authority, but you are not the highest authority. Ordinarily, your orders should be obeyed by everyone, for you are a government officer. But if you attempt to stop the devotional service of the Lord, your order should be rejected at once, just as one rejects the orders of a madman in the street who thinks that he has become the king!

Kazi: Very well, Haridas. I can now see that my suspicions were justified. Your plan is undoubtedly to teach the same rebellious attitude to others, and ultimately to create a situation of anarchy. You have become so crazed by this constant chanting that you can ignore the government and violate the law in any way you please, without fear of punishment. And if others are misled in a similar way, the people will all become lawless and our orderly society will be ruined. Well, this nonsense has gone on long enough. If you do not cease these actions at once, I will punish you in such a way that people will remember it for a long, long time. So now will you stop?

Haridas: It is not that I have become lawless, sir, but I am obeying a higher law than yours. That is the Law of the Supreme Lord, which is so great and stern that it makes your laws look petty and inconsequential by comparison. Everyone must obey the Supreme Law, willingly or unwillingly. And if I obey the order of the Supreme Lord, I have nothing to fear from your punishment. You may cut this body into pieces, or tear it limb from limb but I will never stop chanting the Holy Name of Hari!

Kazi: **(explodes)** Fool! **(slaps Haridas)** Guards, take this man to the market place of the city and beat him with canes until he's dead! If he doesn't die in the first market place, drag him to another and another and another and beat him until the life leaves his body! **(guards grab Haridas roughly and push him out the door, Kazi turns and falls down in seat)**

SCENE FOUR

(Guards drag Haridas through the market place. Several men beat him while the *brahmanas* and Muslims goad them on)

Hindus/Muslims: Beat him! Kill him! Break every bone in his body! **(guards beat Haridas with violent enthusiasm, but his chanting continues, and he is seen smiling and unaffected)**

Guard 1: Let's drag him to the next market!

Guard 2: Yeah! Drag him away! **(they drag Haridas behind screen, and then out again. Then they beat him repeatedly. The Hindus and Muslims are shouting encouragements as before)**

Guard 1: Let's drag him to the next market! **(other guards agree as before, and they drag him out. Pause, then they come back in, clearly exhausted now, as though they had passed through many markets)**

Guard 2: I can't go on beating him anymore. I'm going to pass out from exhaustion!

Guard 1: He should have died in the first market place. But this is the 22nd marketplace! I can't go on either. This is crazy!

Guard 2: Not only is he still alive, but he's never stopped chanting, and he's even been smiling the whole time! This guy's not human! **(to Haridas)** Haridas, if you don't die, the Kazi will cut off our heads!

Haridas: **(to himself)** Oh, no! Just see how inconsiderate I am! Here I am blissfully chanting Hare Krishna while these men are laboriously trying to kill me! Because Krishna is protecting me, they are unable to destroy me, and consequently they are in anxiety. Since we should not cause anxiety to any living being, I will assume a state of trance and thus free them from this labor. **(Haridas becomes stiff in *samadhi*)**

Guard 1: Look! It seems that Haridas has died after all. We're safe from the Kazi's wrath!

Guard 2: Let's carry him back to the Kazi to prove that we've done our work.

Guard 1: He looks stiff. *Rigor mortis* must have set in. **(they try to lift him but cannot)**

Guard 2: Allah! He feels as heavy as a mountain! I can't budge him!

Guard 1: What kind of spirit has possessed this body? This must be some sort of supernatural power. Now what are we going to do?

Guard 2: Wait! He's no longer heavy now. This is very strange! Grab his feet and let's go! **(Haridas is stiff as a board. One lifts head and one lifts feet. They carry him out)**

SCENE FIVE

(The Kazi is sitting in a chair, staring out into space, when the guards come in carrying Haridas)

Kazi: **(startled, almost jumps out of seat)** What, what do you want?!

Guard 1: We've brought the body of Haridas to show you that he's dead. **(they lay him down)**

Kazi: Dead?! Haridas is dead? Oh, so he is! **(slightly startled to see that he is)** Very good, guards! Very good! Well done. Hmmm, it seems that his God couldn't save him after all.

Guard 2: What should we do with the body?

Kazi: What do you do with the beggar's body? Throw it in the river!

Guard 2: Yes, sir. **(both guards pick Haridas up and carry him off. Kazi sits down nervously. Guards bring Haridas out to throw him in the river)**

Guard 1: Good-bye, Haridas, nice knowing you!

Guard 2: He's heavy, he'll probably sink right to the bottom. **(they pitch him into the river)**

Guard 1: Hey, look! He's floating!

Guard 2: Let's get out of here, it's too weird! **(Guards leave hurriedly and Haridas slowly returns to external consciousness)**

Haridas: Now that they're gone, let me return to my chanting. **(he swims to shore. Later, a guard calls out)**

Guard 1: Make way for the Kazi!

Kazi: Well, it appears that everything is going on nicely in the village again since we got rid of that nuisance, Haridas.

Guard 1: Ahhh! **(screams, then speaks in a frenzied voice)** Look, look! A dead man walking! **(he turns and runs out in terror)**

Guard 2: Everyone get your clubs, drive this ghost away! **(Haridas walks on, chanting in ecstasy)**

Kazi: Wait! Hold your weapons. This is no evil spirit, but a divine personality, who is fully under the protect of God. **(he offers *dandavats* at Haridas's lotus feet)** Haridas, I am the greatest offender at your holy feet, please forgive my unlimited offenses!

Haridas: My dear sir! You have not made any offense. If there is any offense at all, it was on my part. If I were very pure, everyone would immediately take up this chanting and become happy. But, due to my sinful nature,

people become insulted by my offensive chanting. Instead of being attracted, they become angry. I am so sinful that I deserve to suffer in hell for millions of years; but by the mercy of the Holy Name, I have been spared and given a little beating instead. **(he looks compassionately at the Kazi, who is still at his feet)** Anyway, I am glad to see that you are beginning to understand the power of this chanting. You were so afraid I might overthrow your position that you wanted to kill me. Actually, it is not me you should fear, but rather this material world, which imposes death upon everyone. This chanting of the Holy Name is the only means of deliverance in this age. So, give up your envy and fearfulness. All troubles will be gone when you chant the Holy Names of the Lord:

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA, KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA, RAMA RAMA HARE RAMA

This is most easily done by singing them loudly in the streets, in the temple or at home. Let's all sing it right now! ***(kirtan)***

The End

A Glimpse into the Life of Haridasa Thakur

First Villager: Oh my dear friend, we are indeed fortunate to be getting the association of a great soul like Thakur Haridasa!

Second Villager: Yes, his words today have softened my heart. I see him, a Muslim by birth and born in this province - he has taken up the Vaisnava religion cent per cent! He is chanting the Hare Krsna Mahamantra almost 24 hours a day and exhibiting such love for Krsna - sometimes crying, sometimes dancing, sometimes being stunned ...

First Villager: Yes, and also he exhibits the renunciation of a real sadhu, a holy man. He is living only in this cave yet people come with great difficulty from miles around to hear from him!

Second Villager: Yes. Actually, there are many questions about my own developing faith in Krsna Consciousness that I would like to ask him but he has already gone into his cave. Will you come with me? I will just ask him what my next step should be in Self Realization.

First Villager: Yes, come on. What is that smell!?

Second Villager: I don't know but it seems to be coming from the cave.

First Villager: I do not like to say this, but I think it is the venom of a serpent. My uncle taught me to recognize it. The odor is so strong that entrance into the cave seems practically impossible.

Second Villager: But what about the Thakur? What if he is in danger? Please, let us go inside to see what is the matter!

First Villager: Just see, on that ledge above the Sadhu, there is a very large Cobra! **(to Haridasa Thakur)** My dear Namacharya, on behalf of all the townspeople and myself, I must ask you to leave this cave at once! There is a great snake living within this very cave and we are afraid for your life.

Haridasa Thakur: A snake living within this cave?

First Villager: Yes, Your Holiness! The odor of his venom, is permeating the entire atmosphere. Can't you smell it?

Haridasa Thakur: I had not noticed it before now.

Second Villager: Please come away before something disastrous happens! I will see that a suitable ashram is built for you!

Haridasa Thakur: My dear well-wishers, there is no need to make extra endeavor to save this temporary body which is doomed for ultimate destruction. The Supreme Lord, Sri Krsna, is always taking care of His fully surrendered devotees. Such devotees are never without complete protection, even though they may appear to be living alone without any help. But if your minds are feeling distress because of my situation, then please come back tomorrow. Right now, I need to finish my prescribed number of rounds. If the odor has not disappeared

by this time tomorrow, then I will agree to go, just to please you.

Second Villager: Very well, Sadhu-ji, we will return to you again tomorrow.
(villagers leave cave)

First Villager: Hey, look here! The serpent is quitting the cave!

Second Villager: What Haridasa said was true! The Lord Hari is protecting him. There was never any danger because the Lord is situated in the heart of everyone as the Supersoul, even in the heart of a serpent. Just to show respect to the saintly person, Haridasa Thakur, this serpent is quitting this place so as not to disturb him.

First Villager: Jai, we have so much to learn in Krsna Consciousness. Let us have kirtana together on the way home.
(they sing the Hare Krsna Mahamantra)

THE PASSING OF HARIDAS THAKURA

from *Sri Chaitanya-Charitamrita, Antya-lila* Chapter 11

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CAST: Narrator, Haridas Thakura, Govinda, Lord Chaitanya, Assembled Devotees.

SCENE ONE

Narrator: All glories to Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu! All glories to Lord Nityananda! All glories to Advaita Prabhu and all glories to all the devotees of Lord Chaitanya! During the last part of Lord Chaitanya's life, He resided at Jagannath Puri along with His personal devotees and enjoyed the congregational chanting of the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra.* In the daytime He chanted, danced and visited the temple of Lord Jagannath. One day, Govinda, the Lord's personal servant, went in great jubilation to deliver the remnants of Lord Jagannath's food to an elderly devotee, Srila Haridas Thakura. Although born in a Muslim family, he was a pure devotee of Lord Krishna and always chanted the Holy Names — *Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare.*

Govinda: Haridas, please rise and take your *maha-prasada!*

Haridas: Today I shall fast — I have not yet finished my rounds. How then can I eat? But, you have brought *maha-prasada,* so how can I neglect it? **(Haridas offers prayers and eats a morsel of *prasada.* Enter Lord Chaitanya)**

Lord Chaitanya: Haridas, are you well?

Haridas: My body is well, but my mind and intelligence are not.

Lord Chaitanya: Tell Me, what is your disease?

Haridas: My disease is that I cannot finished my rounds.

Lord Chaitanya: Now that you are old, you may reduce the number of rounds that you chant. You are already liberated, and therefore you need not follow the regulative principle so strictly.

Haridas: Dear Lord Gauranga, kindly hear my real plea. I was born into a most degraded family, indeed I am both unseeable and untouchable, but You have accepted me as Your servant. You have delivered me from a hellish condition and raised me to the Vaikuntha platform. My dear

Lord, I have had one desire for a very long time. I think that quite soon You will bring to a close Your pastimes within this material world. I wish that You do not show me this closing chapter of Your pastimes. Before that time comes, kindly let my body fall down in Your presence. I wish to catch Your lotus-like feet and see Your moon-like face. With my tongue I shall chant Your holy name, *Sri Krishna Chaitanya!* O most merciful Lord, if, by Your mercy, it is possible kindly let me give up my body in this way.

Lord Chaitanya: My dear Haridas, Krishna is so merciful that He must execute whatever you desire. But whatever happiness is Mine is due only to your association. It is not fitting for you to go away from this world and leave Me aside.

Haridas: My Lord! Do not create this illusion! Although I am so fallen, You must certainly show me this mercy. If an insignificant insect like myself dies, then what is the loss? My Lord, You are always affectionate towards Your devotees, and even though I am an imitation devotee, I pray that You will fulfill my desire.

Lord Chaitanya: It is now time for My noon duties. I will return tomorrow after seeing the Deity of Lord Jagannath in the temple. **(Lord Chaitanya embraces Haridas and then leaves)**

SCENE TWO

(Enter Lord Chaitanya with His devotees chanting and dancing. The chanting devotees circumambulate Haridas, and after a short time the *kirtan* stops and Lord Chaitanya sits down, surrounded by the devotees and with Haridas at His feet)

Lord Chaitanya: Haridas, what is the news?

Haridas: My Lord, whatever mercy You can bestow upon me!

Lord Chaitanya: Just see the super-excellent devotional qualities of Haridas Thakura! Due to his great humility, he will not enter the temple of Lord Jagannath for fear of creating a disturbance! Instead, he remains here in the flower garden, and from this humble abode he looks upon the *chakra* on top of Lord Jagannath's temple, and offers his obeisances from afar. In this way he lives he worships Srimati Tulasi Devi, accepts a little of the Lord's *maha-prasada* and chants the Holy Name of the Lord 300,000 times every day without fail! Who can imitate such a thing? He is the *Namacharya*, the Teacher of

the Holy Names, without doubt, and has been personally sent by the Supreme Lord to deliver the fallen souls of Kali-yuga. His chanting is pure and offenseless, and thus he is always relishing the nectar of pure love of Godhead.

Haridas is like a touchstone, for anyone who is fortunate enough to get his association will very quickly attain the lotus feet of Lord Krishna. Once, the envious Ramachandra Khan sent a prostitute to try and dishonor his character, but she could not affect him. Instead, she became affected by his pure chanting and was blessed with the Lord's favor to engage in devotional service! Why, even Mayadevi herself could not disturb the mind of Thakura Haridas, which is constantly absorbed in thoughts of Sri Govinda. Because the Holy Name is always on his lips, he remains always meek and humble thus he has achieved the causeless mercy of the Lord. The waves of his good qualities are like those of the great *mahajanas* indeed, he is none other than Prahlada Maharaja himself!

Haridas's quality of forbearance is truly remarkable. The Muslim king had him beaten with canes in 22 market places, but Haridas did not even blink an eyelid! And who can forget his ecstatic dancing at the Lord's Ratha-yatra festival, which went on for hours and hours and filled the hearts of all the devotees with great wonder? My dear Haridas, there is no end to your transcendental qualities. You are certainly the topmost devotee of the Lord, and you are very dear to Me, remaining always in My heart. *Sri Haridas Thakura ki jai!!!*

Narrator: Haridas Thakura made Sri Chaitanya sit down in front of him. He fixed his eyes like two bumble-bees on the lotus face of the Lord, and held the lotus feet of the Lord on his heart. Then, taking the dust of the feet of all the devotees present, and putting it on his head, he began to chant the Holy Name of Sri Krishna Chaitanya, again and again. As he drunk the sweetness of the face of the Lord, tears constantly glided down from his eyes. In this way he gave up his life-air and left his body.

Assembled devotees: *Hari! Hari! Jai Sri Krishna! Haribol!*

Lord Chaitanya: (holding the body of Haridas Thakura in his arms) Being merciful upon Me, Krishna gave Me the association of Haridas Thakura! Being independent in His desires, the Lord has now broken that association. When Haridas wanted to leave this material world, it was not in My power to detain him. Simply by his own will he gave up his life exactly like Bhishma. Haridas Thakura was the crown-jewel on the head of this world! Without him, this world is now bereft of its most valuable gem! Anyone who has seen the festival of Sri Haridas Thakura's passing away will achieve the favor of Krishna very soon. Such is the wonderful power in seeing Haridas Thakura. ***(kirtan)*** *Namacharya Srila Haridas Thakura Ki Jai!!!*

The End

The Hera Pancami Festival

by Radha Damodar dasa

History

In the Caitanya Caritamrta, Madhya Five Chapter Fourteen, this festival is described briefly. Once a year the Deities of the Jagannath Puri temple would journey from Jagannath Puri to the Gundica temple in Sundara Cala upon giant hand pulled chariots called Ratha Carts. Lord Caitanya danced ecstatically all day in the Rathayatra Procession. After five days, Lord Caitanya and His devotees returned with great eagerness to Jagannath Puri to see the Hera Pancami Festival. This is a play traditionally done by men in women's clothes that recalls how, when Lord Krsna desired to see the Gopis in Vrndavana, His wife, the Goddess of Fortune (Hera) became angry and, dressing herself in her most opulent saris and jewels and accompanied by many friends and servants went looking for her husband.

Lord Caitanya: Although Lord Jagannatha enjoys His pastimes at Dwaraka dhama and naturally manifests sublime liberality there, still, once a year, He becomes unlimitedly eager to see Vrndavana **(pointing out to the temple gardens appreciatively)**. All these gardens exactly resemble Vrndavana - therefore, Lord Jagannatha is very eager to see them again.

Externally, He gives the excuse that He wants to participate in the Rathayatra Festival, but actually He wants to leave Jagannath Puri and go to Sundara Cala. In Sundara Cala, the Lord stays in the Gundica temple, which is a replica of Vrndavana. The Lord enjoys His pastimes day and night in various flower gardens there. But, why did He not take Laksmidevi, the Goddess of Fortune, with Him??

Svarupa Damodar: My dear Lord, please hear the reason for this. Laksmidevi, the Goddess of Fortune, cannot be admitted to Krsna's pastimes in Vrndavana. In the pastimes of Vrndavan, the only assistants are the gopis, the village girls. Headed by Srimati Radharani, all of them are the topmost devotees of Lord Krsna, no one else attracts the mind of Lord Krsna so.

Lord Caitanya: Using the car festival as an excuse, Krishna goes to Vrndavana along with His sister Subhadra and His brother Balarama. All the pastimes that take place in those gardens are very
confidential ecstacies of Lord Krsna. No one knows them. Since there is no fault at all in Krsna's pastimes, why does the Goddess of Fortune become angry?

Svarupa Damodar: It is just the nature of a girl afflicted by love to become immediately angry upon finding neglect on the part of her lover. She becomes disturbed that her Husband has not returned and she leaves her fabulous palace in Dwaraka to find her Husband and demand that He return with her. I hear the kirtana of the maidservants of Laksmidevi in the distance. Let us go outside the temple and observe this play, now.

(At this point actors and audience go outside the temple door and assemble to the right and left of the actors. The actresses proceed slowly to the temple chanting Hare Krsna and blowing conch shells. All the matajis, young and old may take part in the procession. Laksmi rides on a gorgeously decorated palanquin carried by four men. All the kirtaners should wear much jewelry and opulent saris, garlands, etc. and carry instruments, weapons, flags, banners and also auspicious paraphernalia such as water pitchers, camera whisk and trays of betel nuts.

When they reach the area where the audience awaits them, headed by Lord Caitanya and Svarupa Damodar, Laksmidevi's palanquin should be perched on a raised area so that Laksmidevi can sit and stand above the heads of the actors and audience. The kirtaners sing "Jaya Laksmidevi, jaya Laksmidevi, Jaya Laksmidevi!" but Laksmi is in an angry moos. Her servants fan her with camera whisks and peacock fans. Prasad is offered but she haughtily refuses.

Now, principal officers of the temple known to the audience (the temple president, treasurer, school teachers, scholars, as well as leading donors) approach the actresses respectfully but timidly.

Spokesman: We are honored to have your darshan at our humble temple, O Laksmidevi! Our cooks will be pleased to prepare refreshments for your entire party and arrange for all your comforts!

Laksmi: I have come for only one thing! I wish to speak to my Husband, immediately!! Why does He hide Himself away?
He Who knows everything, He also knows perfectly well of my impatience and my jealousy. Why has He not come out to pacify me!? Bring Him to me, right away!

1st Brahmana: That I cannot do, My Lady. Lord Krsna has given us all strict orders that it is His desire that He may remain completely undisturbed and not see any guests, sages or family members whatsoever. He is completely on holiday, here. He is taking complete rest and relaxation.

Laksmi: (angrily) He <u>will</u> see me!! I don't need your aid! **(to maidservants)** Arrest all these impudent servants of Krsna, at once!!
(The maidservants attack the men in groups. Two or more distinguished looking Brahmanas are bound with ropes, treated roughly and brought before the angry Laksmidevi.)

1st Maidservant: Here is the temple cook! This other one is the manager of the Sundara Cala temple! **(Each is offered to Laksmidevi and forced to the ground to offer their dandabotts. They are afraid. The crowd of women jeer and shake their weapons, instruments and paraphernalia. Some joke and some make rude remarks about the temple Brahmanas.)**

2nd Maidservant: (Loud, angry) Impudent fools! You are rogues and rascals! You are worse than thieves because you steal the happiness of our Queen! You deserve to be <u>killed</u> most painfully! A real Brahmana would have respect for the consort of the Supreme Brahman!

1st Brahmana: Mercy! Spare us! We're only following orders! We are fools! We cannot even make any decisions on our own! We don't know what is right or wrong!

2nd Brahmana: We are stupid fools! Do not bother with us! We are worthless, less than sudra! We are just cleaning men about the temple, having no other shelter!

Laksmi: Answer me this! Dwaraka City contains more opulence than the whole of the heavens put together - there is every pleasure imaginable there. But, as far as Vrndavana is concerned, it contains a few flowers and twigs, some minerals from the hill, a few peacock feathers and the plant known as gunja.

Why did Lord Jagannatha give up so much opulence and go to Vrndavana, leaving me alone?

3rd Maidservant: Why did your Lord Jagannatha abandon the great opulence of the Goddess of Fortune and, for the sake of a few leaves, flowers and fruits, roam about the flower gardens of Srimate Radharani? Your Master is so expert at everything, why does He do such things? Please bring your Master before the Goddess of Fortune!

1st Brahmana: My Lady, who are we to capture Lord Krsna and carry Him anywhere? He is the Supreme Controller. We are merely the keepers of this temple. Our tasks are cleaning and gardening and serving His meals. Lord Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead is the Supreme Independent! As the Supreme Enjoyer, He does only what He wants to do!

Laksmi: These trembling fools are not worth killing by noble ladies such as yourselves. A monarch will never kill a fool or a surrendered soul. Still, they must all pay a fine of 1,000 rupees a man and submit to our desires without any more excuses or pleading! We will see Lord Krsna now!

2nd Brahmana: Thank you for your Divine Mercy upon us, Mother Laksmi! Pray be kinder still upon us because we are your servants and also the servants of Lord Krsna. We cannot act independently. We cannot force our Lord to come. We can simply serve Him constantly, whether He is before us or not! But, we will beg His kindness upon us on Your behalf!

1st Brahmana: Yes, we will make all arrangements for Lord Krsna to come to this spot tomorrow at this time and if He wishes to, He will come!

Laksmi: Very well, we will return, for now, being now confident that you will convey to Lord Krsna our eagerness and our impatience!
(The procession turns and leaves, chanting Hare Krsna. The temple administrators, being freed of their bonds, enter the temple and stay there.)

Svarupa Damodar: (laughing with joy) There is no egotistic pride like this within the three worlds; at least, I have neither seen nor heard of it! When a woman is neglected and disappointed, out of egotistic pride she gives up her ornaments and morosely sits down on the floor, making lines on the floor with her nails. I have heard of this kind of pride in Satyabhama, Krsna's most vain queen and I have heard of it in the behavior of the cowherd girls of Vrndavana, who are the reservoirs of all transcendental mellows. But, in the case of the Goddess of Fortune, I see a different kinds of pride. She manifests her own opulence for all to see and even goes with her soldiers to attack her husband!

Srivasa Thakur: Your gopis are engaged in boiling milk and churning it into yogurt, but my mistress, the Goddess of Fortune, sits on a throne made of jewels and gems!

Lord Caitanya: My dear Srivasa Thakur, your nature is exactly like
that of Narada Muni - the Supreme Personality of Godhead's opulence is having a direct effect upon you! Svarupa Damodar is a pure devotee of Vrndavana. He does not even know what opulence is, for he is simply absorbed in pure devotional service.

Svarupa Damodar: My dear Srivasa, please hear me with attention. You have forgotten the transcendental opulence of Vrndavana. The natural opulence of Vrndavana is just like an ocean. The opulence of Dwaraka and Vaikuntha is not even to be compared to a drop!

Lord Caitanya: Go on speaking! Go on speaking!!

Svarupa Damodar: Vrindavana dhama is made of transcendental touchstone. It's entire surface is the source of all valuable
jewels and the Cintamani stone is used to decorate the lotus feet of the residents of Vrndavana.

Vrndavana is a natural forest of desire trees and creepers and the inhabitants do not want anything but the fruits and flowers of those desire trees.

In Vrndavana there are cows that fulfill all desires and their number is unlimited. They graze from forest to forest and deliver their milk. The villagers want nothing else.

In Vrndavana, the natural speech of the people sounds like music and their natural motion resembles a dance. The water of Vrndavana is nectar and the Brahmajyoti effulgence, which is full of transcendental bliss, is directly perceived there. The gopis there are also goddesses of Fortune and they surpass the Goddess of Fortune who resides in Vaikuntha. In Vrndavana, Lord Krsna is always playing His transcendental flute, which is His dear companion!
(Srivasa Thakur becomes very blissful. He takes center stage and raises His arms. The audience expects him to speak. For a moment or two he relishes deeply the transcendental pastimes of Lord Krsna.)

Srivasa Thakur: Hari Bol!! Everyone chant Hare Krsna! Please get up! Play mrdanga! Play the karatals! Sing loudly, everyone! Chant the maha mantra, Hare Krsna! **(Have a good leader hold a lively kirtan.)**

THE DELIVERANCE OF JAGAI AND MADHAI

from *Sri Chaitanya-Bhagavata, Madhya-lila* Chapter 13

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CAST: Narrator, Haridas Thakura, Nityananda Prabhu, Householder, Jagai, Madhai, Lord Chaitanya.

SCENE ONE

Nityananda and Haridas Go Preaching

(On the streets of Navadvipa)

Narrator: The Lord's activities are unlimited. If Ananta Shesha with His unlimited hoods cannot describe the wonderful pastimes of Gaurahari, then what qualifications do I, a simple narrator, with one limited mouth, have to describe the Lord's pastimes? If I omit some pastimes of Lord Gaurahari, then I apologize to you, my nectar-seekers. Forgive me, for we are limited here to only a short period of time.

Once, on the instruction of the Lord, both Lord Nityananda and Haridas Thakura went door to door on the streets of Navadvipa, giving the nectar of the Holy Name to whoever they met. **(enter Lord Nityananda and Haridas Thakura)**

Haridas: My dear Lord Nityananda, Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has personally ordered us: "Whomever you meet, simply speak to him about Krishna." Surely there is no more fortunate position than to be preaching on the order of Lord Chaitanya!

Nityananda: Yes, Haridas, you are right. We must give out Lord Chaitanya's mercy. The fallen people of this age are all so tightly bound up in materialistic life. If we do not give them an opportunity to hear and chant the Holy Name of Krishna, they are destined for a hellish existence in their next life.

Haridas: Come! There is not a moment to waste! We must press on and visit a few more doors before nightfall!

Nityananda: Here is a house. Let us try this one. **(they knock on the door and a householder appears after some time. Lord Nityananda and Haridas both fall at his feet and begin to submit their plea to him)** My dear sir, please give up your sinful life, chant the Holy Names of Krishna and adhere yourself to the lotus feet of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu!

Householder: My dear friends, what you say may be right, but what can I do? All my hours are spent in maintaining family members... I have no time for religion!

Nityananda: You say you have no time but death may come at any moment, and you cannot say you have no time then! Listen, you do not have to neglect your family, but as a householder, it is your duty to free your family from the cycle of birth and death. Otherwise what is the use of simply filling their bellies? Even the animals can do that!

Haridas: This valuable human life is meant only for reviving our eternal relationship with Krishna. If you do this, by chanting the Holy Names and living a pure life, do you think the Supreme Lord, who is maintaining all living entities in the universe, will let your family starve?

Householder: I never thought about it like that before! You are quite right... I must not waste any more time! But how can I change my ways?

Nityananda: The first and foremost thing to do is to always remember Krishna by chanting His Holy Names. Now repeat after Me: *Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare.* If you always chant like this and live your life according to the principles of the *Bhagavad-Gita,* then you will very quickly develop your Krishna Consciousness, and you along with your family will become very happy and free from all anxieties!

Householder: Thank You! Thank You very much! I will certainly follow Your instructions, believe me!

Haridas: *Jai!* We will visit you again when we come back this way.

Householder: Now please, You have been so kind to me. I must repay You in some way... **(at that moment a horrible shouting and disturbing sound is heard offstage)**

Haridas: What on earth was that?

Householder: Oh, no! It's those two rogues, Jagai and Madhai again!

Nityananda: Who are they?

Householder: They are the meanest pair of dacoits who ever walked the land of Bengal! Nothing and no one is safe when they are on the loose! I'm going inside and bolting the door... I wouldn't wait around here if I were You!

Haridas: Perhaps we should avoid these two fellows. We do not want to cause any trouble.

Nityananda: Haridas, surely we must be merciful to these two fallen souls. For if

they are delivered from their sinful ways, then the good name of Lord Chaitanya will be still more glorified! **(Jagai and Madhai appear, stumbling and falling around in a drunken condition. Shouting and swearing, they see an old man passing by)**

Madhai: Here, Jagai! Look at this old man!

Jagai: Come on, Madhai, let's do him in!

Madhai: Yeah, I'll break his neck! **(they move in and begin to harass the old man. At that time, Lord Nityananda and Haridas fall at their feet and loudly implore the two rogues)**

Nityananda: My dear friends, please chant the Holy Name of Krishna and give up your sinful life! **(Jagai and Madhai are taken aback and the old man uses this opportunity to limp off stage)**

Jagai: What? Vaishnavas? Ugh! **(spits)**

Madhai: You're the scum of the earth!

Jagai: Come on, Madhai! Let's teach these fools a lesson!

Madhai: Yeah! Come here, you two! **(they give chase to Lord Nityananda and Haridas, who run for their lives)**

SCENE TWO

Lord Chaitanya Hears the Sankirtan Report

(In Srivasa Thakura's house, Lord Chaitanya is surrounded by His devotees)

Chaitanya: The essence of all Vedic knowledge is included in the eight syllables *Hare Krishna, Hare Rama.* This is the reality of all Vedanta. The chanting of the Holy Names is the only way to cross the ocean of nescience, and is the chief means of attaining love of Godhead. By humility and meekness one attracts the attention of Krishna. Therefore, if one becomes very humble and meek, he can easily attain the lotus feet of Krishna in this age of Kali. In this way, whatever one does in executing devotional service must be accompanied with the chanting of the Holy Name of the Lord. **(Lord Nityananda and Haridas Thakura enter)** Nityananda Prabhu! Haridas! What is the news of today's preaching work?

Nityananda: My dear Lord, by Your unlimited mercy, many fallen souls were delivered! **(Lord Chaitanya and other devotees all shout: *Jai! Haribol!*)** But there were two sinful rogues who would not listen to

us. Somehow or other they avoided Your mercy, My Lord.

Haridas: Yes, dear Lord. These men were two demonic brothers named Jagai and Madhai. When we asked them to chant, they simply attacked us with filthy language and then chased us for miles. By Krishna's grace we narrowly escaped, but they would have killed us had we been caught!

Nityananda: It is a great misfortune that they could not be given the mercy.

Chaitanya: My dear devotees! I am very pleased that you tried to deliver such a degraded pair of fellows. Actually, I know of these two brothers, Jagai and Madhai. Formerly they were good young boys named Jagannath and Madhava, born in a respectable *brahmana* family, but due to bad association they have become meat-eaters, woman-hunters and sinners of the worst kind. But do not be down-hearted! If at first you don't succeed, then try again... somehow or other, they may be delivered, for everything is possible by the grace of Krishna.

Nityananda: Yes! We will go to them again tomorrow and preach to them! By Your mercy, they will be delivered!

Devotees: *Jai! Haribol! Gaura Haribol!*

SCENE THREE

The Deliverance of Jagai and Madhai

(On the streets of Navadvipa. Jagai and Madhai are on stage arguing. Enter Lord Nityananda and Haridas)

Jagai: Hey look! It's those nonsense God-mongers again!

Madhai: What? Come back for more, have you? Well, take this! **(Madhai throws a piece of clay pot at Lord Nityananda, which appears to draw blood)**

Nityananda: It does not matter that you have done this; I still request you to chant the Holy Name of Lord Krishna!

Jagai: How astonishing! I have never seen such tolerance, Madhai! He must be a saintly person! **(to Lord Nityananda)** My dear sir, I am very sorry! Please forgive me and please pardon my brother!

Madhai: Hey, what's wrong with you, Jagai? You lost your brain? Out of my way, you fool, I'm going to teach this Vaishnava not to mess with me!

Jagai: **(trying to stop Madhai)** No, Madhai, don't do it!

Haridas: Nrisimhadeva! Nrisimhadeva! **(suddenly Lord Chaitanya appears in a fierce and angry mood)**

Chaitanya: How dare you hurt Lord Nityananda! I will destroy you for this! **(He raises His *chakra* weapon)**

Nityananda: **(stopping the Lord)** Wait, My Lord! Your mission is not to kill, but to deliver such rascals as this! If You kill these two rogues, then You may as well kill all the people of this age, for they are all practically as fallen as these two! Please be merciful to them, I beg You!

Chaitanya: All right, I will spare you, but on one condition only: you must solemnly promise that from this moment onwards, you will give up all your sinful habits and take up the chanting of Krishna's Holy Names as your only shelter! **(the two brothers are both on their knees by now and they begin to beg the Lord)**

Jagai: Oh yes, my Lord, I'll do anything You ask! Anything!

Madhai: I'll turn over a new leaf, I promise!

Chaitanya: Come now, my dear friends, do not fear! Although you were most fallen, by the mercy of Lord Nityananda you have now become the most fortunate!

Jagai & Madhai: Oh thank You, My Lord! Thank You! **(Lord Chaitanya raises them up and embraces them)**

Nityananda: Dear Lord Gauranga, You are so kind to the Kali-yuga living entities, for although everyone is so sinful in this age, You are freely giving the highest benediction pure loving service to Krishna to anyone who simply takes shelter of Your lotus feet. Let's chant the Holy Names right now! ***(kirtan)*** *Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu ki jai!*

The End

Jagai and Madhai 2

by Bhurijana dasa

Madhai: What's going on anyway? Hey, Jagai!

Jagai: Hey, Madhai! (They meet and embrace.)

Madhai: Hey, how're you doin'?

Jagai: Hey, man, what are you doing?
(An old blind man with a cane walks by.)

Madhai: Well, I need some money.

Jagai: Women, wine?

Madhai: Hey, he's got some money over there! Blind guys always have money!

Jagai: He's blind!

Madhai: Yeah, he can't see nuthin'!

Jagai: Yeah, why don't we take his money, what to speak of his life?

Madhai: Hey, what's happening with the cane?

Jagai: What's happening, blindsy?

Madhai: You doin' okay?
(Madhai knocks blind man down and Jagai robs him.)

Jagai: Thanks for the donation, blindsy!

Madhai: You want your cane? Here's your cane!
(Madhai hits blind man with the cane.)

Jagai: Have a nice day, sir. Bye!
(They laugh. Blind man runs off.)

Madhai: Hey, you know how much wine we can buy with these?
(He counts the money and examines stolen goods.)

Madhai: Hey, come over here, Jagai, come over here!

Jagai: What do you want?

Madhai: Sit down, sit down, sit down. You and me are goin' to have a little talk!

Jagai: Philosophy?

Madhai: No, gold! Where are we goin' to sell these things?

Jagai: (hallucinating) Ooooohhh, it moved! It moved!! It moved!!!

Madhai: By itself?

Jagai: On it's own.

Madhai: Ha!

Jagai: (to onlookers) What are you looking at? What do you people want? (Jagai charges at onlookers and disperses them.)

Madhai: There's some ghosts in the room, Jagai!

Haridasa: Nityananda Prabhu, just see, why is that crowd forming over there? Let's go see. (They look) Oh, Nityananda Prabhu! This is Jagai and Madhai, they were born in a very elevated Brahmana family!

Madhai: Brahman-swamin!

Jagai: I've got my thread, here ? OMMMMM, OMMMMMMM!

Madhai: Only! Only two pisca! (They try to sell stolen goods.)

Jagai: Only two pisca! Ha ha!

Nityananda: My dear sirs, please, I beg of you, just look at yourselves, you've become so degraded. You're just allowing the Modes of Nature to push you around!

Madhai: (threatening) You ? you ... you want some Modes!?

Nityananda: I beg you humbly to realize that you are not the doers!

Madhai: I am doing it.

Nityananda: Stand up! Chant the Holy Names! Hari! Hari!

Jagai: Listen, Madhai, this is one of those Hare Krsnas!

Madhai: He wants us to chant Hare Krsna!

Both: (mockingly chant) Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Nityananda: Stop this nonsense! Stand up and chant the Holy Names!

Haridasa: These men are mad, Nityananda Prabhu!

Jagai: Did you hear that? He said we were nonsense!

Madhai: Get up! Let's show them! I'll show You what kind of nonsense we are!
(Jagai and Madhai chase Haridasa Thakur and Nityananda Prabhu.)

Nityananda: Haridasa! Come! Come on, Haridasa!

Madhai: When I get my hands on Them ...

Haridasa: I can't run anymore! I'm getting too old for this kind of thing!

Nityananda: Hide in here, they'll never find us here.

Madhai: Where are they?

Jagai: (tired, panting) You know what Mad? Madhai! Madhai! I'm getting tired of looking for those spooks! I just want to get another (slurp) you know? And one of those, you know? And maybe one of ... you know what I mean?

Madhai: Yeah, maybe you're right!

Jagai: Forget this stuff, let?s go!

Madhai: (He knocks over an old person.) Excuse me!

Jagai: Excuse me!

Haridasa: They're gone, Nityananda Prabhu. It's getting awfully late. We have to report back to Sri caitanya.

Nityananda: We can tell Him of our experiences. If we can come back tomorrow to Jagai and Madhai and do some good, Lord Caitanya's greatness will be known all over! Come on!

SCENE TWO - The Streets of Navadvip

Madhai: Hey, Jagai! Remember those two guys we met yesterday?

Jagai: Oh, I remember Them alright, we really scared Them!

Madhai: (in a funny voice) "Hari Har Har Hari!"

Jagai: And remember the other one: "Bol." (They laugh.)
"Hari Bol!" (They collapse in fit of laughter.)

Madhai: Did you see something go by here? I could have sworn I saw something ... (hallucinating) Yeah, now I see the ghosts clearly, for sure. You know what, Jagai? Life is just meant for eating, drinking and ... and ...

Jagai: And women!

Madhai: And women and sleeping, can't forget about that ...

Jagai: You're right. Just wait a second, I have to go somewhere.

Madhai: Yeah, eating and drinking and sleeping and women.

Jagai: Nature calls, you know.

Madhai: Yeah, that gets me every once in a while. Eating , sleeping .

Jagai: What does carousing mean? Like sleeping?

Madhai: Yeah, well sort of like FUN, you know? Having fun!

Jagai: (fondly) We've been doing this for so long, you know, Madhai? Yeah, well it's like this ... you've got to take the good ...

Jagai: With the bad!

Madhai: Yeah! The good ... with the bad.

Jagai: Hey, Madhai, look, look!

Madhai: What? What?

Jagai: I remember these two guys.

Nityananda: There are those two drunkards, Jagai and Madhai. Let's approach them and try to get them to surrender to Lord Caitanya.

Jagai: They didn't understand what we meant, yesterday!

Nityananda: Please, my kind dear sirs, please stand up and chant the Hare Krsna mantra!

Both: (making fun) Hari Hari Hari! Bol! Ha ha!

Nityananda: Chanting will deliver you from all sinful reactions. Chanting will cleanse your hearts from all the dust accumulated for years!

Jagai: Dust? Dust?

Nityananda: Yes! Stand up and chant! Let Me give you true happiness!

Madhai: Hey, let me give You happiness!

Jagai: Yeah, let us give You something from our hearts!

Madhai: Wait! Jagai; Now, yeah, give it to Him! You got it, yeah, give it to Him!
(Jagai throws a pot at Nityananda Prabhu's head.)

Nityananda: Oh, Krsna!!!

Haridasa: Oh, look at what they have done!

Both: (Laughing) Hari Hari Hari Hari!

Nityananda: I don't mind that you have thrown this pot at Me, I simply implore you to chant the Holy Names of Krsna!
Krsna, Krsna! Please chant, become happy! Free your minds from the Modes of material nature, I implore you!

Jagai: I've got another one here.

Madhai: Wait a second, Jagai. (to Nityananda Prabhu) You don't mind, You mean, You're not going to become angry or ... or leave or anything. (to Jagai)

Stop what you're doing, Jagai!

Jagai: I'm going to throw another one.

Madhai: You're not going to get angry?

Nityananda: To become angry is just another manifestation of the modes of Nature.

Madhai: Hey, wait a minute! Wait a second! This guy's a saint, Jagai! Stop it! Stop! (They wrestle.)

Haridasa: Lord Caitanya!
(Lord Caitanya appears angrily with His chakra raised to kill Jagai and Madhai.)

Caitanya: I can tolerate any offense to Myself, but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotees!
(Lord Caitanya charges toward Jagai and Madhai but Nityananda Prabhu restrains Him.)

Both: We're sorry! We'll change! Please spare us!

Nityananda: Please, My dear Lord, please remember, You have come not to kill but to deliver all in this age! Kindly kill only the demoniac principle in them.

Both: Please don't kill us! Please don't kill us!

Nityananda: Kindly remember, My dear Lord, kindly accept them as Your devotees!

Caitanya: Alright, I will spare you, but only if you give up your sinful life.

Jagai: Yes, we will.

Madhai: We will. Thank you.

Caitanya: What are the four rules?

Jagai: No meat eating, no illicit sex, no gambling and no intoxication!

Madhai: No intoxication!

Caitanya: Alright, and always chant the Holy Names of the Lord. And that's

the key that will free you from all sinful desires!

Jagai: Yes, we will! Hare Krsna!

Madhai: Yes, Hare Krsna, Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna!! Thank You!

Jagai: You're very kind.

Caitanya: Now, everyone chant! Hold huge kirtan! From today our Jagai and Madhai have returned to our party! (Kirtan)

Lord Nityananda Converts Jagai and Madhai 3

SCENE ONE

(Sri Caitanya and His associates chant on the street. Sri Caitanya dances.)

Caitanya: (over kirtan) Harer nama! Harer nama! Chant the Holy Name! Whoever you meet, instruct him to chant the Holy Name of Hare Krsna!

Nityananda: (over kirtan) My Lord, You are so merciful! You have appeared in this age of Quarrel just to deliver all fallen souls and flood this whole universe with Love of Godhead!

Caitanya: Hari bol! Hari bol!
(Kirtan leaves stage. Jagai and Madhai enter in a drunken state, laughing.)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai! Look at this old man with his daughter, he must have some money, eh!

Jagai: (snatching the bag) Hey, Madhai! This old man has lots of money, look!

Madhai: Ho, that's a fact, but he doesn't seem to have just money ... (Madhai is looking at the woman.)

Girl: What do you want, don't touch me!
(She backs away from Madhai.)

Madhai: (Laughing and going towards woman) What? We want YOU, darling.
(She turns and flees. Jagai and Madhai laugh and stumble off stage. The old man staggers off in the direction of his daughter, holding his head.)

SCENE TWO

(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur enter chanting and a man runs up to them in a frightened and breathless state.)

Nityananda: My dear sir, what is the cause of your anxiety?

Man: I have been harassed by two rogues, Jagai and Madhai! These two culprits, once prominent Brahmanas, are terrorizing the entire village. They plunder our homes, rape our women and murder elderly and helpless persons!

Nityananda: Sri Caitanya has come to this village for the sole purpose of delivering all sinful rogues including these two Jagai and Madhai! Please go peacefully on your way and always chant the names of the Lord! Hari! Hari! Hari!
Man: (folding hands) Thank you, my Lord.
(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur leave and Jagai and Madhai enter.)

Jagai: Madhai, we must be the lords of this land!

Madhai: Yeah, we tell 'em to jump and they say "how high?"

Jagai: (going to onlooker) My dear sir, please give me your money!

Madhai: We're the tax collectors!

(They laugh. Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur push through the outraged crowd and approach Jagai and Madhai.)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai, look! It's some of those weird street singers!

Jagai: I wonder which hole these guys crawled out of?

Nityananda: Please, I humbly request you to give up these disturbing activities and chant the Holy Name of Lord Hari. These names will deliver you from your sinful life and bestow upon you supreme transcendental happiness and the greatest of richness love of Krsna!
(Jagai and Madhai laugh uncontrollably and ridicule Nityananda Prabhu.)

Madhai: (charging at Nityananda Prabhu) Boo!

Jagai: You guys don't seem to understand that my brother and I, we are the lords of this land.

Madhai: We don't want any beggars here!

Jagai: Get lost! Go find a job somewhere!
(Jagai pushes Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur. Jagai and Madhai laugh loudly. They drink and stumble off the stage. Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur and others leave.)

SCENE THREE

Caitanya: Nityananda Prabhu! Haridasa! Please tell me of your day's preaching!

Nityananda: Today, my Lord, we have met the most fallen two men, born sons of Brahmans, Jagai and Madhai. Their lives are most abominable, engaged in all sorts of debauchery. My Lord, we approached them and pleaded with them to take Your mercy and chant just once the Holy Name but most lamentably they could not do so due to their pride and their intoxicated state.

Caitanya: Today, You have achieved something very rare. I, Myself, could not have done this. By attempting to deliver these two scoundrels, You have set an example for all devotees. Your activities have greatly touched my heart and I will never be able to repay you.
(Sri Caitanya embraces Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur.)

SCENE FOUR

(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur enter chanting with great determination. They stop center stage.)

Nityananda: My dear Haridas, today we must again attempt to deliver Jagai and Madhai. If these two men are delivered, the fame of Sri Caitanya's Sankirtan Movement will surely be heard of all over the world.

Haridas: Just please be careful, Nityananda Prabhu!
(They have a kirtan. Then Jagai and Madhai and a crowd of onlookers come onstage.)

Jagai: Listen, Madhai, these Hare Krsnas are still coming here!

Madhai: Aaaaahh! These guys are always chanting and dancing, they better not come up and bug me again!

(Kirtan continues. They approach Jagai and Madhai.)

Jagai: Hey, you stupids!

Madhai: Not you two here again!
(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur get down on their knees and fold their hands)

Nityananda: Please, again I am humbly requesting you to chant the Holy Names of Hare and Krsna and in this way you will obtain all happiness!!

Madhai: Incredible! These two guys don't seem to be afraid of us! They are still asking us to chant the Name of Their God! I'm going to teach them a lesson!
(Madhai picks up a piece of clay pot.) I've had enough of your lip!
(Madhai throws the clay at Nityananda Prabhu and strikes Him in the head. Haridas Thakur catches Nityananda Prabhu and tries to help Him.)

Nityananda: It does not matter that you have done this, I still request you to chant the Lord's Holy Name!

Jagai: You don't mind? Madhai, did you hear that? These guys must be the real things?

Madhai: I'm going to throw another one.

Jagai: Wait, stop! These are actually very saintly persons. They are pure devotees! Bow down, Madhai! Do whatever they say.

Madhai: You must be as crazy as they are! Let me kill them!

Jagai: No, Madhai! Can't you see their gentle nature! (Suddenly, Lord Caitanya charges in with His chakra raised to kill them.Jagai and Madhai cower in great fear. They cringe close to the ground.)

Caitanya: (furious) I can stand any offense Myself, but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotees! Today, I will rid the world of the two debauchees who have dared to harm My devotee!

Nityananda: My dear Lord, in this incarnation You have not come to kill the miscreants but to destroy their demoniac mentality. If you were to kill these two, You would have to kill everyone because in this age of Kali everyone is sinful like them! My Lord, You have come to deliver the fallen souls by the Holy Names and actually Jagai has already regretted his sinful life.

Jagai: Please, I am so sorry for everything I've done! My brother and I will never harm anyone again .. ever! We promise!

Madhai: Yes, yes! Please have mercy on us and accept us! We will be Your servants!

Nityananda: Just see how they are taking shelter of Your Lotus Feet.

Caitanya: Very well, since You have intervened on their behalf, I will accept them. (addressing Jagai and Madhai) I will pardon you if you agree to never drink liquor, never touch a woman, study the scriptures, eat only Krsna's prasadam and always chant the Holy Names of Krsna.

Jagai: Yes, my Lord, thank you.

Madhai: Oh, I will, thank you, thank you.
(Nityananda Prabhu starts a happy kirtan, Jagai and Madhai join in as do the other actors and the audience.)

Lord Nityananda Converts Jagai and Madhai 3

SCENE ONE

(Sri Caitanya and His associates chant on the street. Sri Caitanya dances.)

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Nityananda: (over kirtan) My Lord, You are so merciful! You have appeared in this age of Quarrel just to deliver all fallen souls and flood this whole universe with Love of Godhead!

Caitanya: Hari bol! Hari bol!
(Kirtan leaves stage. Jagai and Madhai enter in a drunken state, laughing.)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai! Look at this old man with his daughter, he must have some money, eh!

Jagai: (snatching the bag) Hey, Madhai! This old man has lots of money, look!

Madhai: Ho, that's a fact, but he doesn't seem to have just money ... (Madhai is looking at the woman.)

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(She backs away from Madhai.)

Madhai: (Laughing and going towards woman) What? We want YOU, darling.
(She turns and flees. Jagai and Madhai laugh and stumble off stage. The old man staggers off in the direction of his daughter, holding his head.)

SCENE TWO

(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur enter chanting and a man runs up to them in a frightened and breathless state.)

Nityananda: My dear sir, what is the cause of your anxiety?

Man: I have been harassed by two rogues, Jagai and Madhai! These two culprits, once prominent Brahmanas, are terrorizing the entire village. They plunder our homes, rape our women and murder elderly and helpless persons!

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Man: (folding hands) Thank you, my Lord.
(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur leave and Jagai and Madhai enter.)

Jagai: Madhai, we must be the lords of this land!

Madhai: Yeah, we tell 'em to jump and they say "how high?"

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Madhai: Hey, Jagai, look! It's some of those weird street singers!

Jagai: I wonder which hole these guys crawled out of?

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(Jagai and Madhai laugh uncontrollably and ridicule Nityananda Prabhu.)

Madhai: (charging at Nityananda Prabhu) Boo!

Jagai: You guys don't seem to understand that my brother and I, we are the lords of this land.

Madhai: We don't want any beggars here!

Jagai: Get lost! Go find a job somewhere!
(Jagai pushes Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur. Jagai and Madhai laugh loudly. They drink and stumble off the stage. Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur and others leave.)

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(Sri Caitanya embraces Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur.)

SCENE FOUR

(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur enter chanting with great determination. They stop center stage.)

Nityananda: My dear Haridas, today we must again attempt to deliver Jagai and Madhai. If these two men are delivered, the fame of Sri Caitanya's Sankirtan Movement will surely be heard of all over the world.

Haridas: Just please be careful, Nityananda Prabhu!
(They have a kirtan. Then Jagai and Madhai and a crowd of onlookers come onstage.)

Jagai: Listen, Madhai, these Hare Krsnas are still coming here!

Madhai: Aaaaahh! These guys are always chanting and dancing, they better not come up and bug me again!

(Kirtan continues. They approach Jagai and Madhai.)

Jagai: Hey, you stupids!

Madhai: Not you two here again!
(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur get down on their knees and fold their hands)

Nityananda: Please, again I am humbly requesting you to chant the Holy Names of Hare and Krsna and in this way you will obtain all happiness!!

Madhai: Incredible! These two guys don't seem to be afraid of us! They are still asking us to chant the Name of Their God! I'm going to teach them a lesson!
(Madhai picks up a piece of clay pot.) I've had enough of your lip!
(Madhai throws the clay at Nityananda Prabhu and strikes Him in the head. Haridas Thakur catches Nityananda Prabhu and tries to help Him.)

Nityananda: It does not matter that you have done this, I still request you to chant the Lord's Holy Name!

Jagai: You don't mind? Madhai, did you hear that? These guys must be the real things?

Madhai: I'm going to throw another one.

Jagai: Wait, stop! These are actually very saintly persons. They are pure devotees! Bow down, Madhai! Do whatever they say.

Madhai: You must be as crazy as they are! Let me kill them!

Jagai: No, Madhai! Can't you see their gentle nature! (Suddenly, Lord Caitanya charges in with His chakra raised to kill them.Jagai and Madhai cower in great fear. They cringe close to the ground.)

Caitanya: (furious) I can stand any offense Myself, but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotees! Today, I will rid the world of the two debauchees who have dared to harm My devotee!

Nityananda: My dear Lord, in this incarnation You have not come to kill the miscreants but to destroy their demoniac mentality. If you were to kill these two, You would have to kill everyone because in this age of Kali everyone is sinful like them! My Lord, You have come to deliver the fallen souls by the Holy Names and actually Jagai has already regretted his sinful life.

Jagai: Please, I am so sorry for everything I've done! My brother and I will never harm anyone again .. ever! We promise!

Madhai: Yes, yes! Please have mercy on us and accept us! We will be Your servants!

Nityananda: Just see how they are taking shelter of Your Lotus Feet.

Caitanya: Very well, since You have intervened on their behalf, I will accept them. (addressing Jagai and Madhai) I will pardon you if you agree to never drink liquor, never touch a woman, study the scriptures, eat only Krsna's prasadam and always chant the Holy Names of Krsna.

Jagai: Yes, my Lord, thank you.

Madhai: Oh, I will, thank you, thank you.
(Nityananda Prabhu starts a happy kirtan, Jagai and Madhai join in as do the other actors and the audience.)

The Deliverance of Jagai and Madhai #5

From the Sri Caitanya Caritamrta
Adapted by Locan dasa

Narrator: This play is called "The Deliverance of Jagai and Madhai." It is a drama meant to glorify Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Who appeared in the year 1486. His mission was to inaugurate the congregational chanting of the Hare Krsna mantra, which is the best means of deliverance for all people in the age of Kali, The Srimad Bhagavatam states that people in this age are generally quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky and always disturbed, and as such, they have little interest in Spiritual Life. But, although the mass of people are so unqualified in this age, the Lord is so merciful that He brings the easiest process and by that process anyone can attain the highest spiritual perfection. So, now let us see how these two degraded specimens of the Kali Yuga were delivered by the grace of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. The scene is Nadia, West Bengal, at the house of Jagai!

SCENE ONE

(Jagai is drunk, sitting at a table with a bottle and a glass. He is unshaven , dirty, and looks completely miserable.)

Jagai: Hell, hell, hell, hell! God, my life is hell!
(He addresses those who laugh in the audience.)
Shut up! You think it's funny? You blissful babies … what do you know about misery? You don't know nothin'! But, I've been through it. You see, I was like you guys once - happy, chanting, blissful … then I got mature and I said to myself : "Hey, there's a whole world out there I haven't experienced."
I caught a train for the nearest big city - Gorakpur! My parents told me never to even go near that town, it was so sinful. But, I wouldn't listen to them. Oh no, not me! I do what I want, when I want. Hah! Nobody pushes me around except the Modes!
And then I met Shakuntala! She used to laugh at my Brahmin thread. Her ropes were stronger than my Brahmin thread! I left home and when I came back ...
(Madhai enters. He is not so reflective as Jagai, but is more brazen, impetuous and mean.)

Madhai: Jagai, you old monkey-faced mudha, you! What a ya doin' talking to a bottle again? Get off that mental platform. You sold the elephant, Jagai, now throw in the rod. Come on, bring your bottle and your knife and let's go see what kind of life there is in town!

Jagai: (Head in hands) Why don't you leave me alone, Madhai? What are we going to do in town? Beat up some poor slob, steal his money and buy more of this? (holds up bottle, shaking it) This poison! God what good is this life!!?
(Madhai grabs Jagai by the front of the shirt, threatening him with his fist.)

Madhai: Listen, you putrid brother of mine, you got us into this! There's no way out now. You're the one that laughed at me when I used to ask you why you didn't get up for mangal artik in our little temple room! You're the one that told me that spiritual life is for women and children! We used to be nice little Brahmacharies. We even fasted all day on Ekadasi! Then, you started missing the arotiks in the temple, or if you did come, you wouldn't chant but you'd sit in the back. And then, one day, you were gone. But, the seed was planted, and now I've come out even worse than you at sin and debauchery. So, don't spoil our fun now with your reluctance. Get up! (They both stumble off the stage.)

SCENE TWO

(Grandfather is making laddus and putting them in a bag. His grand-daughter is watching him and asking questions.)

Girl: Grandpa, I went to the market with my mother, yesterday.

Grandpa: Oh? Did you get some nice fruits and vegetables?

Girl: Yes, and we saw some nice devotees chanting Hare Krsna! Everyone in the marketplace was joining them in singing and dancing.

Grandpa: Oh, you must have seen the devotees of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He is a very great religious leader in Nadia and He has many followers. I have heard that there is even one Muslim-born Vaisnava with them, named Haridasa Thakur, who is very advanced. Haridasa Thakur goes with the famous Vaisnava, Nityananda Prabhu, from door to door all over Nadia and they fall at people's feet begging them to chant Hare Krsna. Well, I'm ready to take this to the temple for the festival of Laxmi Devi, now, take care.

Girl: Bye, Grandpa!

SCENE THREE

(Grandfather is walking across stage with bag of laddhus when Jagai andMadhai enter and see him from afar.)

Madhai: Hey, check that out!

Jagai: Check what out?

Madhai: That old man! Looks like he’s got a sack of money!

Jagai: Oh, how do you know it’s money? You’re crazy!

Madhai: Look how he's dressed. The guy's wealthy. Come on, let's get that bag!

Jagai: Leave him alone, Madhai, he's old and I'll bet it isn't money, anyway.
(Madhai looks menancingly at Jagai but then changes his mood.)

Madhai: I'll tell you what, Jagai, you go up to him real sweet and find out what's in the bag. I'll wait here.

Jagai: Okay, I will! (Jagai approaches Grandfather.) Well, hello there, old man ... heavy sack you're carrying!

Grandpa: (answers innocently, smiling) Yes, it's for my Laxmi ...

Madhai: (to himself, out loud) His laxmi! I knew it!
(He jumps on the old man and hits him in the head. Jagai takes the bag and they run off to side. The Grandfather stumbles offstage in the other direction, holding his head.)

Jagai: (looking in bag) You fool, you fool You've beat him for nothing! There's only sweetmeats in here. You idiot!
(Jagai takes a big drink in desperation. Madhai grabs the bottle from him to relieve the shock.

He drinks. They run off.)

SCENE FOUR

(Madhai enters, helping Jagai to walk.)

Madhai: Now, here we have example of a dwija-bandhu. He ain't a Brahmin, that's for sure, so he must be the fren' of a Brahmin. Yeah. And since he's my fren' then I must be a Brahman! (Jagai sits down in a slump.) Madhai dasa Brahmachary. Uncommon Brahman, fully decorated with all Brahminical qualities:
Truthfulness! I never lie about how much I can drink!
Cleanliness! I wash my hands every time I kill someone!
And Mercy! I always share my liquor with Jagai!
And everything I "earn" from my "work," too.
(He pulls a laddu out of his pocket and offers it to J. He is looking at the laddu, still a little stunned, when Haridasa Thakur and Nityananda Prabhu enter.)

Nityananda: Look, Haridasa, the two most degraded fellows in our town, Jagai and Madhai. If we could make them into devotees, just think how it would spread the fame of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu! Let's see what we can do!

Haridasa: Nityananda Prabhu, these men were once Brahmins of the highest order. Their parents were respected all over West Bengal.

Nityananda: And now they are living just like pigs in the gutter! Jagai! Madhai Get up! Please, try chanting Hare Krsna and be happy!

Madhai: Are they talkin' to us, Jagai? Are you addressin' us? Me and Jagai, we don't need a lecture, today. Anyway, pigs can't appreciate philosophy and we're pigs! So, you better get out of here!

Jagai: Yeah! You tell 'em, Madhai!

Madhai: Pigs do whatever they want! Pigs eat whenever they want! And Pigs pass stool whenever they want!

Jagai: Very elegantly put, dear brother. These two better get out of here! (to Nityananda Prabhu) Why are you wasting Your time with us? You better leave before you get hurt. Madhai can get mean sometime and I can't control him.

Madhai: (Gets up, picking up a stick and chases Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakur off.) You heard him! Get outta here! We like being pigs! Get out! Get out! (They all exit.)

SCENE FIVE
(The little girl walks across stage with her mother who is carrying a bag of fruit and vegetables.)

Girl: Mata, is Grandpa feeling better, today?

Mother: Yes, dear, he feels a lot better! He said he might even come into town, tonight.

Girl: I hope we see the devotees again.
(They go off. Nityananda and Haridasa Thakur enter.)

Nityananda: Sri Caitanya was very pleased with our attempt to convert Jagai and Madhai. If we meet them again, let us give them one more chance to join us!
(Jagai and Madhai enter noisily from far side.)

Madhai: Where'd you put that bottle, this time!?

Jagai: How do I know, you monkey-faced mlecha! You had it last time we were at the market!

Madhai: Well, we'd better find it. I ain't been this sober since I was twelve years old!

Jagai: And how long ago was that?

Madhai: (He tries to figure it but can't.) I don't know! Don't try to distract me. I gotta either find that bottle or rob somebody so I can buy another one!
(They meet Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakur abruptly.)

Nityananda: Jagai, Madhai! You're not drinking today! Take this opportunity to try this chanting with us!

Haridasa: Nityananda Prabhu, be careful!

Jagai: What? Not you again!

Nityananda: Jagai! Madhai! Please try chanting! You'll see! You'll become happy! It's a special benediction for this age that anyone can take it up from whatever position they are and taste the highest nectar. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is distributing it freely! Repeat after Me:
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

Madhai: You're back again with this Harinam! I warned You to stay away!
(Madhai takes up a piece of broken pot and hurls it at Nityananda Prabhu. It hits Nityananda Prabhu in the forehead.)

Nityananda: Madhai, I don't care what you've done to Me. I know you two are completely miserable and this is the only medicine. Don't turn away from us! Lord Caitanya is so kind, The Hare Krsna mantra will clean away all your moroseness and make you happy and bright again! Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Madhai is about to throw another piece of clay pot, but Jagai restrains Him.)

Jagai: Madhai, Madhai! He's the real thing! Don't hurt Him. See how humble He is?! Stop!
(Lord Caitanya enters quickly with His chakra raised to kill Jagai and Madhai.)

Nityananda: Lord Caitanya!

Haridasa: Oh, my Lord!
(Jagai and Madhai recoil in great fear.)

Caitanya: I can tolerate any offense on My own behalf but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotees!!! (Jagai and Madhai gasp and cringe close to the ground.)

Caitanya: I shall kill you!

Nityananda: (Restrains the Lord) Please, My Lord, forgive them.
Just see how they are taking shelter of You Lotus Feet, burying their heads at Your Feet! Look at them, they're whimpering like puppy dogs! My Lord, almost everyone in this age of Kali is fallen like these two brothers and if You kill them You will have to kill most everyone else, too. We know that Your incarnation is actually meant for killing their demoniac mentality, so I beg you, My Lord, please forgive them and spare them. Just see their repentance.

Madhai: Oh Lord, we are so sorry! Please don't kill us! We have been the worst of men but now that we have seen You we will change our lives completely. Oh, please spare us and let us become your devotees!!!

Jagai: My Lord, You are so merciful and we are so wretched, we will always be Your servants!

Caitanya: Because you have taken shelter of Nityananda and I, therefore I shall spare you, But henceforward, you must never fall down from the Brahminical principles and must completely give up your habits of debauchery.

Both: Oh, we will, My Lord! Thank You, my Lord! All Glories to Your Lotus Feet!

Caitanya: Let us all chant the Holy Name!
(Nityananda leads a kirtan and all join in. The Girl, her mother and her Grandfather also come on and join in the Kirtan.)

Lust, Anger and Greed #4- New Jagai and Madhai

Scene One

("Peace of Mind" by Murari Band plays at a diner. Many couples are enjoying their food and conversation. The waitress washes a table with two chairs and fixes the flowers in the centerpiece. Lust, Anger and Greed enter from the side.)

Lust: (speaking in a Southern drawl and behaving in a lusty manner) My dear Anger and Greed,
have I ever told you that you are my very best friends? It seems that wherever I go, I can always
trust that you two will be by my side, enhancing my enjoyment to the max!

Greed: (speaks quickly) Ahhh, what a great friends you have always been for me, my dear Lust.
In fact, I can never get enough of your association! Whenever you set your mind on something,
I instantly feel a great urge within me to satisfy you MUCH MUCH MORE than you had desired! Just see what good friends we are! (They laugh together.) And what more be said about our intimate associate, the most voracious one the honorable Anger himself:

Anger: (with a coarse, narly voice. He has a curled lip and squinty eyes.) You guys are always agitating me!

Lust: Everyone agitates you!

Anger: That's right, they do! And everything! Still, I can't seem to function without you guys either! As long as you're with me, I can easily take full control of the situation. Like here, for example, I'm already starting to feel very disturbed and even destructive I think I'll

Lust: Whoaaa, Anger, how about we just mosey on over to that fancy table over there, where we can find ourselves some real enjoyment. I want to have a good time, right now! The three of
us never have to be afraid of anything or anyone!

Greed: Yeah, that sounds great - good food, music, wine and women!

Anger: Yeah, let's go and enjoy ourselves!
(The three go arm in arm into the diner and inspect the table. Suddenly, heavy, eery music is heard and Death comes in from the same side as the three friends. He is dressed all in black and does a dance in the background of the stage.)

Waitress: Good evening, gentlemen, my name is Linda, may I get you some
(Lust and Greed grab the chairs and sit down.)

Anger: What's so good about it? Hey, where's my chair? You, hey waitress! Bring me a chair, right now!
(The waitress quickly brings another chair.) What an idiot!
(He grabs the chair from her.) What a stupid place, only two chairs to a table!
(Looks angrily at the waitress.) Where's my menu? What are you standing around for? Get me a menu, right now!! (The waitress nervously brings a menu over.)

Waitress: (trying to be controlled) May I get you some nice, cold water, before you order your meal?

Anger: Ooooh, I hate water!!

Lust: Hmmmm, everything on here looks so good! I must have some of your best wine and your most delicious and the BIGGEST, too piece of pie!

Greed: I need whatever my good friend, Lust, has butthat will not be enough for me! I Also need some whiskey, champagne and three BIGGER pieces of three different pies. And I need music! Turn on some good dancing music. I'll probably need more of everything as the night goes on, so stick around, my good woman!

Anger: I don't see anything good about her or this place! But, if we have to stay here, then I definitely need a bad, stiff drink!
(Anger shoves himself away from the table, looking disgusted.)
This joint stinks! (pauses) I can never get what I want and even if I did, it's still not good enough!
(Waitress comes with the food and drinks and each see the food in their own way. Anger mutters under his breath. Music is heard while they eat. Suddenly, at another table, a young man clutches at his heart, falling from his chair. In mime, the girl who is with him is trying to help him by shaking him, pouring water on him, etc.. Staff and diners come over to help. Finally, she cries out loudly:)

Girl: Harry! Harry! Come back! Don't leave me now!
(Wailing and sobbing)

Lust: Oh my, what a terrible sight!

Greed: It looks like he's dead! He looks so young! Too young to die! Hmmm that sure is a nice looking ring on his finger ...

Anger: (to waitress) What's the big deal? What's the matter with him? He doesn't look so well.

Waitress: Oh sir, such a terrible thing has happened. He was so happy one moment and he just had a heart attack! He was only twenty-two years old and now gone forever. This is just terrible!!

Lust: But how is it possible that this man could die at such a young age? He looks so strong, healthy and handsome Are you sure he's dead?

Anger: Well, that sure isn't going to happen to me! I'm going to live my life to the fullest and nobody better try to stop me or else

Waitress: (to audience) That's what everyone thinks. I used to think like that, too, until I met Lord Caitanya's Sankirtan devotees. They came in here with their books one day and told me all about how this is the Age of Kali. They told me how Sin has become such a powerful ruler and how to avoid her influence.

They also told me the story of Jagai and Madhai and the mercy of chanting the Holy Names of Krsna. Those Hare Krsnas are really smart dudes!
(She addresses all the patrons in the diner.)
Does anyone know what the most amazing feature of life is???

Lust: Sure, that we can enjoy it in so many ways!

Greed: NO! That we can get more and more and more and more and more! Uppers, downers, beautiful women, fast cars, big houses, lots of money

Anger: Aww zip it up, Greed. You want too much. In fact, you talk too much. There's only one way to keep you quiet
(As he raises his fist to punch Greed, Lust catches his arm and tries to calm Anger down.)

Waitress: The most amazing feature of life is that everyone has to die, YET .....
(Death goes through the crowd unnoticed, putting his arms over each person.) YET, everyone thinks that they can go on enjoying forever. They do not think that Death is waiting, waiting, waiting - and no one knows when his time to die will come.
(She points to members of the cast and audience.) Will you be ready when death comes to you?
Will you? How about you?

Lust: Who is this Death, anyway? Who does He think he is, that he can come in and wreck our fun?

Greed: Yeah, I think we should try to find him before he finds us!
(Puts his arms around Lust and Anger.) We'll show him who's in control.

Anger: Now you're talking! We'll all beat him up and you guys have got to let me cut his throat. (Pulls out his knife) I'll be ready for him.
(They all laugh. The other diners are shocked.)

Lust: It sounds like a good plan. I can't stand the thought of someone or something trying to
stop my enjoyment!

Anger: (putting knife away) Maybe this stupid waitress knows where Death hangs out. Hey you!
(waitress comes over) Where can we find this Death? Uh, we wanted to make a nice little deal with him.

Waitress: Well, I've heard his activities are a great mystery. No one knows where he will strike
next, but they say that those who are old and those who are sinful are closest to him. Maybe, you could find him around some old person.

Anger: Let's go! I can't wait to get my hands on him!
(They pay and leave. Lights. Music)

Scene Two

(Soft music. The diner lights are dim, Everyone has gone home. The chairs are on the tables. The waitress is sweeping and yawning a lot.)

Waitress: Well, I sure wish those Hare Krsnas would come by and see me again. I'd like to hear that story about Jagai and Madhai getting the mercy again. In this Age of Kali, people don't care about anything nowadays except their own sense gratification! How shallow! Just like

those three weirdos who were here tonight! I wonder if chanting the Holy Names could save them from illusion? I'm too tired to drive home, right now; I think I'll take a little nap.
(She takes out a sleeping bag and lies down. Use fog machine to indicate that she is dreaming. Jagai and Madha come out of the fog. They hold wine bottles and reel and stagger about the stage.)

Jagai: Madhai, I keep askin' you, "Who do those Hari Haris think they are?"
(He dances in a mocking way.)
Hari bol! Hari bol! (Madhai laughs.) What a bunch of losers! I'm gettin' real tired of them comin' round alla the time.

Madhai: Yeah, I'm goin' to hafta show their leader, that one in blue, jest who is charge around here! The nex' time they come singin' round our door -POW! - I'm goin' ta get heavy with them!
Tryin' to disturb our lifestyle; they've got some nerve!!
(The Sankirtan party enters with Lord Nityananda leading. He wears a blue dhoti and has His hair in a top-knot.)

Nityananda: My dear Jagai and Madhai, in this Age of Kali, your sinful activities do not surprise Me. Lust, Anger and Greed have polluted your hearts and you have taken Sin as your Mistress! Many people in the future will engage in the same sinful activities as you do. Intoxication, Meat-eating, Illicit Sex, Abortion, Wastefulness - these are some of the vices that are common in this Age. But, I must give you Lord Caitanya's mercy in the form of the Maha Mantra. This mantra has the power to cleanse your very hearts! First, you have to stop your sinning and then you have to clean your heart. This is the only way that anyone can escape the noose of Sin that keeps you in the material world birth after birth after birth. Death drags you to the feet of Yamaraj and he says "you do not even deserve human life - you should suffer in the lower species!"

So, raise up your arms, brothers, and chant with us!
(The kirtan starts. Madhai picks up a piece of clay pot and throws it at Lord Nityananda's head. Lord Nityananda staggers a little from the blow, wiping blood from His brow, but puts His arm out towards Madhai. Madhai is about to do it again but Jagai physically stops his brother.)

Jagai: (in a loud voice) NOOOOO, Madhai!! Don't do it! He is already hurt very bad! Look, He can't even see, there's so much blood dripping on his face! Look how beautiful He is! And humble, He's really humble, Madhai! This sadhu is really a saint, I tell ya!
(Suddenly, Lord Caitanya charges onto the stage wielding His fiery Sudarshan Cakra weapon.)

Caitanya: Where is he? Where is the villain who hurt My Nitai?! He has breathed his last!! Anyone who dares to offend My devotees, what to speak of hurt them, has to deal with Me directly in my form as Death! Where is the offender??
(As Lord Caitanya approaches Jagai and Madhai, both throw themselves at His feet to beg for mercy.)

Jagai: Please Lord, forgive us, we didn't realize

Madhai: Forgive us! Please don't kill us!

Nityananda: My Lord Gouranga, I humby request that You forgive these two sinners! You have come to save all conditioned souls, not to kill them. Indeed, if you kill these two, You will have to kill everyone because in this Age everyone is on te level of Jagai and Mahai or

worse! If they can take up the chanting of Hare Krsna, then they will serve as an example to everyone in Kali Yuga who becomes overwhelmed with lust, anger and greed!
(Lord Nityananda convinces Lord Caitanya to lower His weapon.)

Please, My Lord, let me beg them, once again, to chant the Holy Names of the Lord. By Your mercy, they will give up their sinful ways and assist You in Your mission of spreading the chanting of the Holy Names to every town and village!

Jagai: Yes! Yes!

Madhai: We promise! We'll never drink again! We won't do anything else but chant Hare Krsna and serve You all of the time!

Jagai: We already know the mantra and everything!

Nityananda: So, rise up, both of you. Raise your arms up like this and chant and dance with as we
Praise the Holy Names of Krsna!
(Kirtan begins again and Jagai and Madhai join the Sankirtan party and they all dance off the stage.)

Scene Three

(Music. The smoke clears and the waitress gets up. On the side of the stage Lust, Anger and Greed have an old man against the wall. They mime that they are robbing him. Linda, the waitress looks at her watch, realizes how long she has been sleeping and quickly puts her sleeping bag away.)

Waitress: Shhhhewww!! What a heavy dream! Man, that's what I should have tried to explain to those three that were in here last night! If I could have told them about chanting Hare Krsna, maybe they could give up their sinful ways.
(She puts her hand over her eyes as if she sees something far away.)
Oh, no, is that them?! Are they trying to kill that old man, thinking that they can kill Death? Well, I'm no Hare Krsna, but I can certainly try to pass on whatever part of Krsna's teaching that I know!!
(Yelling as she runs) Hey, you guys, wait! Stop! Stop!

Anger: What do you want? Get outta here before you get hurt! This ain't none of your business!

Greed: (Pulling out a fat wallet from the old man's trousers) Yeah, move along, Table-washer! We got some important business to take care of and we don't want anyone getting in our way!

Lust: Better do as they say, or you ain't going to be at your job, tomorrow, honeychile. We're having a mighty important meeting with my uh, father, who stole my wallet out of my other pants.

Old Man: They're lying!

Anger: Shut up, old man!

Waitress: Please don't hurt this old man! Listen, if you want to conquer Death or achieve wealth or have the most enjoyable time of your life then chanting Hare Krsna can give you all these things. And even more! The most sublime happiness will be yours if you simply chant

Hare Krsna, like this: (singing)
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Anger: I'm losing my patience with this kid.
(Anger drops the old man, who faints to the floor. Anger comes over to the waitress with the intention of roughing her up. He grabs her arm and before anyone can stop him, Anger shoves the waitress top the floor. The waitress yells in pain then gets up and staggers a little from the blow. Blood comes from her mouth and she spits out a tooth. She holds her jaw. At the other side, Jagai and Mahai can be seen at the feet of Lord Nityananda and Death dances all around the scene. The waitress looks over at Lord Nityananda and remembers her dream. Lust holds back Anger from attacking Linda again. Greed is dividing the money into three piles but his pile is the tallest.)

Greed: That's one for Lust and one for me and one for me and one for Anger and one for me and one for Lust and

Waitress: Now I can understand what all saintly persons have had to tolerate in order to be merciful to the fallen, conditioned souls. Once again, I request that you please chant the Holy Names and give up your sinful ways!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Anger: GRRRR! (He wrenches his arm from Lust's grasp and rushes toward the waitress. She dodges him, making him even more upset. As he comes back to tackle the waitress he falls on Greed who is counting the money.)

Greed: (shoving Anger) Hey, watch out for the money! You're going to get all our shares mixed
up! And I had it counted out so evenly, too!
(A crowd of onlookers, including two Hare Krsna devotees gather.)

Anger: Sure you did! You call that even?
(pointing to the tallest stack) Why, you were tryin' to pull a fast one on your so-called best friends! Well, I've had enough of you, Greed!
(Anger stabs Greed with his knife. Greed cries out and Death takes him upon his lap until Anger is lifeless then Death puts Anger's body aside. Anger and Lust are shocked for a moment but then, as Death stands between them, Lust wrestles the knife out of Anger's hand and stabs Anger to death. The devotees are trying to make the crowd stand back.)

1st Devotee: Someone call the police immediately.
(He motions to the waitress.) Linda, get the knife out of his hand. We'll help you!! Don't waste a second. Linda, yell out Krsna's Name; He will protect you!!!

Waitress: KRSSSSNNNAAA!
(When Death hear's Krsna's Name, he steps back cautiously. He starts to leave. Linda pounces on Lust, making the knife fall to the ground. The 2nd devotee picks up the knife and the first devotee restrains Lust by forcing his arms behind his back. Police come and handcuff Lust and take him away. Death snaps his fingers as if he's missed out on that one then follows Police and Lust off.)

Officer: We'll need to talk to you, Ma'am, to get the facts.You're lucky that you've got friends like the Krsnas!

Waitress: Yes, yes, sure. I just need to talk to my friends for a while. That will help me to calm down before I tell you the whole story of what went on here tonight.

Officer: Okay, I can wait.

Lalita: Hey, Linda, YOU'RE A HEROINE! Just by taking shelter of Krsna's Holy Names, you became empowered to save the day! Visaka, did you see how she handled that knife-wielding madman?

Visakha: Yeah, you were fantastic, Linda!
(A photographer takes a picture of the three of them. One devotee displays the Bhagavad Gita, then she presents it to the photographer.)

Photographer: This is front page news, ladies! Hey, thanks for the Book! Here's a few dollars for
your temple. I was at your Open House last Sunday! This is going to make a really great story!!
(She goes to talk to the reporters and onlookers. The police move the bodies off.)

Lalita: Who were those guys anyway? Seems like I've met them before. That one guy being hauled away by the police almost looked like an old friend of mine.

Waitress: They were Lust, Anger and Greed.
(The two devotees look at each other in astonishment.)
Greed and Anger were the ones who were bumped off. Lust is probably going to
be spending a long time in prison. It seemed that Lust was the ringleader of the group.

Visakha: Yeah, that's just how Lust is - he's always the root cause of all our problems. There's
a verse in the Bhagavad Gita, Chapter Two, Verse Sixty-two, Linda, that goes like this:

Dhyato visayam pumsah
Sangas tesupajayate
Sangat sanyate kamah
Kamat krodho bhijayate

Here, Krsna says, "While contemplating the objects of the senses, a person develops attachment
for them and from such attachment, lust develops, and from lust, anger arise."
(The old man is seen hobbling about, collecting his money.)

Lalita: Theeeeeeeennn Krsna says in the Bhagavad Gita Chapter Two Verse Sixty-three,

Krodhad bhavati sammohah
Sammohat smrti vibramah
Smrti bhraamsad buddhi naso
Buddhi nasat pranasyati
(Motioning to the dead bodies and the old man collecting the money that is scattered everywhere)

"From anger, complete delusion arises and from delusion comes bewilderment

of
memory. When memory is bewildered one's memory is lost and one falls down again into the material pool." We see it happen everyday. People very quickly become angry when they can't easily satisfy their senses and then they just act crazy. They'll do anything for another moment of pleasure!

Waitress: You guys really have it all figured out, don't you?

Visakha: Our Spiritual Master, Srila Prabhupada, has it all figured out and we are learning how to properly utilize our human lives by reading his books. He's the one who taught us how to chant Hare Krsna and who has taught us that we no longer have to be controlled by Lust, Anger and Greed. Let's have a little kirtan before you go down to the station. It will make you feel better.
(Kirtan. During the kirtan, the old man gives Visakha a stack of bills and joins in the chanting of the Hare Krsna mantra.)

The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Two - Lord Caitanya's Sankirtan Movement

The Deliverance of Jagai and Madhai #13

Scene One

(A loud, wild kirtan is heard offstage throughout the scene)

Madhai: This is their headquarters, Jagai - the house of Srivas Thakur! That racket is some sort a pep rally, I think. They're probably gettin' ready to take over the whole town!!

Jagai: I promise you, Jagai, I'll catch each one o' 'em fellows an' shore a jugful in their gobs!

Madhai: And me, I'll tuck a good piece o' lamb bone in them. Those guys are stuffin' themselves with pies an' hollerin' like it was hell!

Jagai: Do you know why they holler? Well, I'll tell you what I think: this way they work up their appetite. 'Em guys close their eyes when they sees an animal sacrifice, but they paint 'their foreheads with the sign o' a butcher's hack!

Madhai: You is another fool! Those guys are all fakes! You were tellin' 'em you would sell them booze, but 'em Vaisnobs must be drinkin' out of barrels! 'Em guys are like the Devil's disciples - I ain't heard nothin' any worse than the sound of 'em singin'!!

Jagai: I say let's catch 'em one by one, the blighters, and lambast 'em to a pulp! That Nimai Pandit, He is something of a wonder, though ... Can you get Him in your gang? I used to tease His gang of Vaisnavas but they have no taste for liquor!

Madhai: Hey, get ready, we□ll bust in on de party! I'm sure they will be glad to see us! **(pushing the door several times)** □ Ooof! Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle! □ Can you believe it, brother, the Vaisnobs have locked their doors on us! Hey, gimme a drink o' your booze!

Jagai: Nooo! You just guzzled your own, where'll I get more?

Madhai: Okay, be that way. What sort of cheatin' did we come 'ere for? C'mon, I hear someone comin' - now, when he comes out, I'll puke in front o' the door and fall down □ you knock him out of the way and we'll duck inside right quick! **(kirtan gets louder)** Well, I'll be cursed! They've started up again! Wait, wait - I'm gonna get somethin' an' break the door down.

Jagai: Naah, Madhai, how do you know they even have any booze in there? A bunch o' odd birds, they are!

Madhai: Or food! They must have some party food! I heard they've been at this hollerin' from early, early mornin' and now it's almost mornin' again!!

Jagai: Okay, let's jest go home then, get some sleep! I hate mornin's!

Madhai: Don't you want to snatch at least two jars We could catch hold o' 'em by their braids and beat 'em up!

Jagai: I don't care. I'm tired, let's just go home.

Madhai: Ahhhh you're gettin' to be borin' in your old age!
(They both leave.)

Scene Two - Main Street

Madhai: I'm bored! I hope we met them Hare Hare Singers, today!

Jagai: Listen, I'm going to tie their ponytails together and chase 'em guys until they jump in the river!!

Madhai: Yeah! If I catch some o' 'em, I'm gonna wipe the clay markin's off their faces! Callin' allatime "Vrinda!", "Lalita!" and all; they are just too much mush for me!

Jagai: Didn't you go to Nimai Pandit's weddin'?

Madhai: What's the use, eh? Not even the smell o' mutton there! Listen, I've got a joke, I have. I've kept a jug full o' goat's blood I'll pour the whole thing onto Advaita Acharya's doorstep! Har! He'll be hoppin' mad, he will! Ha!

Jagai: Nah, nah! Goat's blood is good! Why waste it? Give it to me if you don't want it!

Madhai: Anyway, I hate them singers and dancers. They are a disgrace to Nadia, aren't they?

Jagai: I figure we have to get His whole gang on our side with us in charge, is all.

Madhai: No, He's an independent one, for sure. His old man must have left Him a sum of property! He's married twice, spent plenty of money and me thinks He still has plenty left. Luck is in his house, I'm tellin' you. At his house He's feedin' dozens of beggars. Then, they sing and dance 'til they are hungry again! They go door to door an' everybody gives 'em donations.

Jagai: Hey, so why don't we go to His house one night!

Madhai: No, no. We have own program - working the street! And another thing - I heard that Nimai is a scholar. A stuffed shirt who calls Himself a Digvijayi, a conqueror in logic, came to Nadia and this Nimai Pandit, in few words, He sent him runnin'!
  Hey! Look, some grubby mendicant is coming, let's snatch 'is bedroll away! He must be headin' for Caitanya's house!
(Mendicant enters.)

Merchant: (to himself) How wonderful! How wonderful is this town of Navadvip! It has been a long time since I have had such tasty prasadam as I had at the temple today!

(Madhai straightens his clothes, tries to look respectable, and approaches the pilgrim.)

Madhai: O learned sir, my respects! I have some pains due to stones in my stomach. Can you cure me?

Merchant: No, no dear sir, I am a mere mendicant, what do I know of medicines?

Madhai: Oh no no, you certainly know about medicines!

Merchant: No sir, I know nothing about medicines. Just leave me alone and let me go.

Madhai: Then have a puff o' ganja wi' us, then.

Merchant: No no sir, I don't want any ganja!

Madhai: You shall certainly take. Sit down! Jagai, make up a pipe for our guest!

Jagai: (bringing a pipe) Here it is, clean an' ready-made!

Madhai: Come, sit comfortably, sir and set your bedroll down. This is nice, clean dirt, right here.
(Mendicant does so and Jagai takes bedroll and leaves.)

Merchant: What's happening? Why do you take my bedroll?

Madhai: He simply carries it to your bedroom, sir. What else?

Merchant: For God's sake, please return my bedroll!

Madhai: (angrily) What?! Have I taken it? I'll show you I know your game

Merchant: For God's sake, I tell you I am a poor mendicant on holy pilgrimage

Madhai: I ought to beat you up!

Merchant: (runs off) O heavens! O Lord!
(Jagai returns.)

Madhai: Hey, where did you get that fancy bedroll, brother?

Jagai: It was just lying on the ground!

Madhai: Was anything in it?

Jagai: I took his money an' threw it away! Wasn't enough to bother with.

Madhai: Well, we're gonna have to steal some money quick or we'll die sober! Las' night, I tried to snatch a necklace from a young woman - I was so drunk that she slipped away! Where the hell were you, Jagai?

Jagai: I was out in the street, too, Madhai! I caught two guys but I got

nothin' out of them.

Madhai: Couldn't ya catch hold of that son o' Nidhurama Banrujye? That would have seen us through for a few days!

Jagai: Nope! 'At guys a real rascal - he's been stayin' over there at Srivas Thakur's house.

Madhai: Listen, I got a plan. When those singers an' dancers leave Srivas Thakur's house, they'll all go straight to Caitanya's house. That means they'll come right past us here. When they do, we'll rob 'em! C'mon, let's climb this tree!

Jagai: Hey, why do you want to climb a tree? Are you a monkey? Haha!

Madhai: Dummy, if we stand on the road, 'em guys'll see us an' no one will come this way!

Jagai: Oh, yeah!

Madhai: C'mon, help me up!

Jagai: No no, we'll hide behind that tree. I can't climupatree my legs are tottering just standin' up!

Madhai: Hey, look there! Who are those two men comin'? Look at those good old fatso brahmanas!

Jagai: We'll have some fun with them guys!
(Two scholarly pandits enter)

1st Pandit: I say, can you show me the house of Caitanya Mahaprabhu?

Jagai: Nimai Pandit?

1st Pandit: Yes yes, that great scholar of Navadvipa.

Jagai: (in a wailing voice) He died two days ago! He certainly was a very great scholar if ever there was one! He became very sick, and now He is no more!
(While Jagai was talking, Madhai has tied their sikhas together.)

1st Pandit: What do you mean!?

Jagai: What else!?

2nd Pandit: No, that's a lie! Can't you see that they are playing a practical joke? Obviously, these two idle men are just pranksters of some sort.

Jagai: No, no. We just wanted you to stop and drink some booze with us. **(calls)** Madho! Bring us some booze, will yer?

Madhai: Most holy wine comin' up!

1st Pandit: O my Lord! **(They start to run.)** Rama! Rama!

2nd Pandit: Goodness! He has tied our sikhas!

Jagai: (calls) Hey, you blighters! Catch 'em, Madhai!
(Jagai and Madhai make the brahmanas run in different directions and pull their sikhas.)

1st Pandit: Hare! Hare! I'm finished! I'm finished! (puff puff)
(to 2nd Pandit) Here, sir - come this way

2nd Pandit: Oww! My sikha -oww! Oof!

Jagai: (calls) Catch 'em, Madhai! Kill 'em!
(All run off. Jagai and Madhai come back on, laughing and slapping each other on the back. They cross the stage and exit again.)

Scene Three

(Madhai staggers on and sees Jagai eating sweets with great pleasure.)

Jagai: Mmmmm! Yum! Good!

Madhai: Jagai! Where did you get so much sweets?

Jagai: I stole the whole pot.

Madhai: And jest how did you steal that pot?

Jagai: I paint' me nose with them white lines and I jest walked into the temple kitchen and - finished! At the door, two pujaris were standing and they asked me, "where are you goin'?" an' I said, "Don't try to stop me or I'll bite ya" Ha! You should seen their faces! Ha! Here you are, you can have a couple, if you want to, Mo!

Madhai: I might just steal your whole pot! Anyhow, I heard in the marketplace that Caitanya Mahaprabhu has taken off. He stays out of His house the whole time. We should take this opportunity, you know, an have a look-see at His house!

Jagai: Oh no no, I already tried twice! Each time two bloody-big black cobras chased me!! I ain't goin' back there, no way!
(Jagai starts dancing.)

Madhai: Why the hell are you dancin'?

Jagai: I'll become a renunciate an' I'll sing loud like 'em, **(tries to be grave)** "O Hari, please appear before me!"

Madhai: C'mon, let's go to the crematorium and booze it up a little more. Soon, we'll wipe out them Haris!
(They leave)

Scene Six
(Kirtan is heard)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai, come have a look at what's coming that procession of singing and dancing. I don't like it; it's weird.

Jagai: Oh, don't worry about them. They're just some crazy Vaisnavas on a recruitment drive. Do you remember that mantra our father used to chant? Well, that's what they're chanting!

Madhai: Sentimentalists! Just look at the fools! And look at their Leader!! Ha!
(They leave. Hari Nam kirtan, led by Nityananda Prabhu, enters.)

Nityananda: What is that big crowd over there? Let us go and see.
(Jagai and Madhai enter in a drunken state.)

Madhai: What are you lookin' at?! What are you lookin' at?!
(They frighten the townspeople.)

Jagai: Madhai, we must be the lords of this land!

Madhai: Yeah, we tell 'em to jump and they say "how high?"

Jagai: (going to onlooker) My dear sir, please give me your money!

Madhai: We're the tax collectors!
(They laugh.)

Haridas: You see, I told you that we were proceeding too far into the bad part of town. There's no one here that we can preach to, Nityananda Prabhu. Let's turn around and hurry back to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's ashram. He will be expecting us to return about now.

Nityananda: Haridasa, my friend, just see for yourself the mercy of the Supreme Lord! There are two fallen souls who are about to receive the mercy of the Holy Name. Let's ask them to chant with us!

Haridas: Be careful, my dear Nityananda! Those are two of the most dangerous criminals in Navadvip - Jagai and his elder brother, Madhai. They are well known for their violence and their hatred of the Vaisnavas. They were born in a good family of Vaisnavas but they have long surrendered to the depravaties of strong drink!

Nityananda: That may be, but Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's order is that we request everyone we meet to chant the Holy Name and be happy!
(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur push through the outraged crowd and approach Jagai and Madhai.)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai, look! It's some of those weird street singers!

Jagai: I wonder which hole these guys crawled out of?

Nityananda: My brothers, just chant the Holy Names and be happy! Join us! Chant! Dance!

Jagai: You must be mad! We will never partake of your crazy ways!

Madhai: Fools! Do you know who we are!?

Nityananda: We do indeed know you, Brothers. But do you know who you are? For self-realization, the easy and sublime method for this age is to chant the Holy Name constantly. Please leave aside your sinful ways and join us. Dance and chant and your lives will be sublime!

Jagai: Enough of this! Take your religion elsewhere! We don't need this Hare Hare stuff!

Madhai: Yeah, we're happy when we have plenty to drink!

Jagai: Go! Get out of here! Go now go!

Nityananda: Please, I humbly request you to give up these disturbing activities and chant the Holy Name of Lord Hari. These names will deliver you from your sinful life and bestow upon you supreme transcendental happiness and the greatest of richness love of Krsna!
(Jagai and Madhai laugh uncontrollably and ridicule Nityananda Prabhu.)

Madhai: (charging at Nityananda Prabhu) Boo!

Jagai: You guys don't seem to understand that my exalted brother and I, we are the lords of this land.

Madhai: We don't want any beggars here!

Jagai: Get lost! Go find a job somewhere!

Nityananda: My dear sirs, I beg you to chant the Holy Names of the Lord! Chant Hare Krsna! Hare Krsna!

Jagai: What!? Holy Name!? Did you hear that Madhai? What is He trying to say?

Madhai: He's begging us to chant Hare Krsna, Jagai! Look, we are Holy Men ourselves. We are brahmanas. See, here are our brahmana threads. **(They show their threads.)**

Jagai: Yeah, our Father was always doing Puja at the Krsna temple!

Nityananda: Good, then let us chant together right now.
(sings) *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Jagai: Get away from us, right now!
(Jagai pushes Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur. Jagai and Madhai laugh loudly. They chase Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur away.)

Madhai: If You come back we will beat You up!

Scene Seven - The Ashram of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu

(Kirtan party is heard offstage.Lord Caitanya recites Sri Siksastakam dramatically.)

Caitanya: Glory to the Sri Krsna Sankirtan, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death.

This Sankirtan Movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.

O My Lord, Your holy name alone can render all benediction to living beings, and thus You have hundreds and millions of names like Krsna and Govinda. In these transcendental names You have invested all Your transcendental energies. There are not even hard and fast rules for chanting these names. O My Lord, out of kindness You enable us to easily approach You by Your Holy Names, but I am so unfortunate that I have no attraction for Them.

One should chant the Holy Names of the Lord in a humble state of mind, thinking oneself lower than the straw in the street; one should be more tolerant than a tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige and should be ready to offer all respects to others. In such a state of mind one can chant the Holy Names of the Lord constantly.

O almighty Lord, I have no desire to accumulate wealth, nor do I desire beautiful women. Nor do I want any number of followers. I only want Your causeless devotional service, birth after birth.

O son of Maharaj Nanda (Krsna), I am Your eternal servitor, yet somehow or other I have fallen into the ocean of birth and death. Please pick me up from this ocean of death and place Me as one of the atoms at Your lotus feet.

O My Lord, when will my eyes be decorated with tears of love flowing constantly when I chant Your Holy Names? When will My voice choke up, and when will the hairs of My body stand on end at the recitation of Your Name?

O Govinda! Feeling Your separation, I am considering a moment to be like twelve years or more. Tears are flowing from My eyes like torrents of rain and I am feeling all vacant in the world in Your absence.

I know no one but Krsna as My Lord, and He shall remain so even if He handles Me roughly by His embrace or makes Me brokenhearted by not being present before Me. He is completely free to do anything and everything, for He is always My worshipful Lord, unconditionally.
(Kirtan party enters.)
Ah, here comes my two chief preachers, Haridasa Thakura and Nityananda Prabhu! Kindly tell me all about your preaching activities today!

Nityananda: O Gauranga, by Your mercy, many fallen souls were delivered and have accepted Lord Krsna as their life and soul! However, there

were two brothers who we could not save.

Haridasa: My Lord, they chased us! Indeed, they would not even listen to what we had to say, but abused us with vile language and tried to attack us! I had to grab Nityananda Prabhu and hurry Him away. We escaped by the mercy of Lord Krsna!

Caitanya: Who are these two villains?!

Nityananda: Their names are Jagai and Madhai. Although they are employed by the government to collect taxes, they simply terrorize and plunder the innocent citizens!

1st Devotee: These two tyrants are a law unto themselves! Leading a band of many brigands, they roam about the village and pillage good people!

2nd Devotee: Nobody dares defy them, for they have already murdered over a hundred people!

Caitanya: Such unfortunate rascals! They do not realize how much they will have to suffer in the future for their abominable activities! If only there was some way in which they could be delivered!

2nd Devotee: Surely, we should try to avoid trouble and not agitate them any further! I have heard that they are camped in this quarter of the town - who knows, they may even come here and cause trouble, for they are notorious as devil worshippers and despise all devotees of the Lord!

Haridas: This is true. But, on the other hand, it is the desire of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu that even the most fallen soul be delivered. We must not be deterred, for surely Krsna will protect us!

Nityananda: Yes, Haridas is right! By risking one's life in the service of the Lord, one is sure to attain the mercy of Krsna, Let us go back there and try again to save them!

1st Devotee: But, how are you going to do it? If you approach then in the same way they may simply become more violent towards you!

Caitanya: My dear friends, this evil age of Kali is an ocean of darkness. But, there is one ray of Light and that is the Holy Name of the Lord, which has descended directly from the spiritual world. Whatever a person's material condition may be, he can be delivered only by the sublime process of chanting the Holy Names of Lord Hari! Therefore, tomorrow you must form a very large Sankirtan party and go directly to the camp of Jagai and Madhai. With humbleness and compassion, ask them to join you and bring them back here to our camp for training.

All: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki Jaya!

(Nityananda Prabhu and His chanting party enters. Jagai and Madhai are very angry because He has returned.)

Nityananda: (shouts) Everyone come and take the love of Kisori! Radhe, the perennial spring of love flows incessantly, bubbling in all directions! Take and sprinkle as much as you can! You can get all you want! Love of Radha Personified, Lord Gauranga is here in Navadvip! I am distributing that rarest love!

Nityananda:
Song
Come let us sing Hari to our heart's content
Come dancing Jagai, come dancing Madhai
You have hurt me, that's all right
Come dance, sing, chant Hari Hari Haribol!
Loving Hari will grant you love and shelter
Sing, oh sing the glories of the Holy Names.
You have tasted the nectar of love
So simply cry and wail and chant Hari.
You will soon see the Sweet Lord of Your Heart.
Oh! With love I will distribute love!
So I, Nitai , chant with love
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Scene Eight - Next Day

(Jagai and Madhai are lying in the street.)

Nityananda: There are Jagai and Madhai, let's try to preach to them again!

Haridas Thakur: My dear Nimai Pandit, do you remember what they said yesterday? How they chased us? I am afraid that they are going to hurt You! Please, let's go the other way.

Nityananda: I don't mind if they hurt Me; it is Our duty to deliver fallen souls so we must go and preach to them!

Haridas Thakur: But you cannot put yourself into danger for that!

Nityananda: But remember. If we are able to deliver such fallen souls as these then Sri Caitanya Maharabhu's fame will increase. People in general will have more faith in the purifying powers of the Holy Names!

Haridas Thakur: Be ready to run.

Nityananda: (calling) My dear brothers, Jagai and Madhai!

Jagai: Madhai, wake up, it's those two dancing preachers again. The ones that want to beg us!

Madhai: (standing up) How dare they come here again!??

Nityananda: You have attained this human birth; more over, you have taken your birth in a brahman family! Why, then, are you wasting your time! Chant Hare Krsna! Dance! Join us and help us spread this chanting of Hare Krsna everywhere!

Jagai: Madhai, He's giving us a lecture!

Madhai: Well, I will give you a good lesson today!

Nityananda:
Song:
Love of Radha personified,
Take this love and chant Hari!
I pray you - please take this love!
Love will intoxicate your soul
Love will make you dance and roll!
Crest the waves of Kishori's love,
Chant Hari! Hari!

Jagai: Hey, what's this? What's this "Kishori Kishori Kishori!?

Madhai: Come here fella, I'm your own Yamadutta, I am. Hmmm, lessee where you run today. The other day, you ran like mad, ha!

Nityananda: Please chant the Holy Names of the Lord!

Madhai: Rascal! He's sayin' the same thing again!
(Madhai picks up a piece of earthen pot and throws it at Nimai Pandit. It hits Nimai Pandit in the forehead, drawing blood.)

Nityananda: (prays) O My Lord! Forgive his offences! He does not know he knows not ignorant of Your love Magnanimous as You are, please deliver this fallen soul!
(to Madhai) It does not matter that you have thrown this clay at me, I still request you to chant the Holy Name of the Lord! Please chant *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Jagai: Madhai, wait, wait!
(He grabs Madhai's arms.)

Madhai: What? I'm going to throw another one!

Jagai: Madhai, this guy is for real! He's so humble and determined he's like those pure devotees Father was always talking about Madhai, this guys a saint!

Nityananda: Just chant the Holy Names of Krsna! Take shelter of Sri Caitanya!

Jagai: Madho! You had better do what He says or you will be destroyed!

Madhai: Ha! Destroyed! All right, Father, I'll not strike ya! But, you'd better go on and sing some more!

Nityananda:
Sings:
Oh! How nectarean is the Holy Names - Hari!
Say, oh say Haribol!

Purchase this nectar with your "intense desire"
Oh why do you not have that sublime taste?

No consideration of sinner and wretch
Anyone can chant Lord Hari's Holy Names!
No measure to fathom His compassion!
Become intoxicated with this nectar,
Why drown yourself unwisely in wine?
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Come Jagai - you have now purchased Me, for you have given Me protection! Come. Come and embrace with Me! Nimai Pandit will certainly benedict you!
(Sri Caitanya Maharabhu burst upon the scene in an angry mood, wielding his Sudarsana Cakra weapon.)

Caitanya: Oh, what is this? Who has done this to You, My Brother!? Which low-down monster has committed this awful blasphemy!!?

Nityananda: Brush aside Your anger; I am not hurt! I simply beg at Your lotus feet that You shower compassion upon these two wretched souls, Jagai and MadhaI - brothers born in a good Brahman family! Forgetting, momentarily, their real self-interest, they fell into a deep, dark well of illusion. Give them a taste for the Holy Names; Who else but You will deliver the sunken sinners?

Caitanya: How dare you hurt Lord Nityananda! I can tolerate any offense to Myself but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotee!!
(Jagai and Madhai cower and grovel fearfully.)

Jagai: We're sorry! Please don't kill us!!

Madhai: We won't do it again! We'll chant all the time!! We already know all the words!

Nityananda: (restraining Lord Caitanya) Wait, My Lord!! Your mission is not to kill but to deliver such rascals as these two! If You kill these two, You may as well kill everybody, for in this age, practically all the people are just as fallen as these two! Please, show them Your mercy; I beg You!!

Caitanya: (to Jagai and Madhai) Very well, I will spare you, but on one condition only - you must solemnly promise that, from this very moment, you will abandon all your sinful ways and take up the chanting of the Holy Names as your only shelter.

Jagai: My dear Lord, You are the Most Merciful Person and therefore we will do whatever You ask of us!

Madhai: I am the most abominable of all men and do not deserve to be delivered! But, still I beg that You will permit me to be Your lowest of servants.

Caitanya: You need not fear any longer; although you were the most fallen, by

the mercy of Nitai, you have become the most fortunate.
(Lord Caitanya raises them to their feet and presents them to the kirtan party.) All Vaisnavas may rejoice this day, for on this day Jagai and Madhai have returned to our association!
(Devotees cheer.) Everyone chant Hare Krsna!

Devotee: Sri Nityananda Prabhu ki jaya!!
Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki jaya!!

Jagai: (embracing Nimai Pandit) Dear Lord, please be compassionate upon me - please I am the worst wretch.

Caitanya: No, no, you are my very dear comrade. Your heart will fill up with love for Lord Krsna. Surely, Salvation will be yours! Just glorify always the Supreme Lord Hari!

Jagai: (prays) O Lord Hari, be merciful to me! O Lord, be kind to me! Madho, throw yourself at His feet!

Madhai: (to Lord Caitanya) My Lord, what will become of me? What will be my condition?

Caitanya: You will not be released from this burden of sin until you beg forgiveness from Him Who you have offended. You have hurt a great holy saint, Nityananda Prabhu. Thousands of thunderclaps cannot counteract this sin. Your only means is to embrace Nityananda Prabhu's lotus feet!

Madhai: (embracing Nityananda Prabhu's lotus feet) Yes, yes! My Lord, Nimai Pandit, please be kind upon me! I am a rascal, please save me!

Nityananda: If I have implicit faith in the Holy Names of the Lord, then I offer you as a sacrifice to the Holy Names! Embrace your new-found life! O Madhai, I want to feel love from you! Chant Hare Krsna and give your love!

All: Haribol!! Haribol!!

Madhai: O Jagai, which hellish planet have I to enter looking for shelter? I have hurt such a magnanimous Lord! Indeed, I am a dreadful piece of rubbish! Is there any hope for my deliverance? Is there any chance for my abominable act to be rectified? There is an intense fire burning within me My Lord, I do not know anything, I am ignorant; please forgive me! Please save me! Save me!

Nityananda: Madhai, you need not fear - one who chants Lord Hari's Name eradicates innumerable sins - for millions of births you have sinned - but those sins can be eradicated. I have given you My promise, you are free from all sinful reactions.

Madhai: Oh no, my Lord, You are so compassionate and I am so sinful! What engagement is there for such an awful sinner?

Jagai: My Lord, never will we leave the shelter of Your lotus feet! Both of us are dreadful demons, but You have to find out a way for us to do some service for atonement! We are like deep dungeons full of sin! We were envious of the Vaisnavas I beg You to keep us in Your service, Lord!

Madhai: Alas, we are so mean and fallen - lower than even the hogs! My Lord, please - just once place Your lotus feet upon my breast and sooth my agonized heart!

Nityananda: O Jagai! O Madhai! Simply keep always the Holy Names of the Lord upon your lips - this is the best service to all mankind! The Lord's Name will burn to ashes all the offences just as fire burns cotton or wool. Words are insufficient to describe the glories of the Holy Names of Lord Krsna! He is a friend to the fallen, an ocean of compassion, the only shelter for souls suffering in the vast material universe. By taking His Holy Names, this ocean of nescience becomes as insignificant as the water in the impression of a calf's hoof print - anyone can easily jump over it! Sing Hare Krsna with all your heart and soul and wash away your transgressions. His Name will soothe your afflicted soul, the sweet nectar causing it to bloom and chase away the iniquitous gloom. O how wonderful is His Name!

Madhai: Haribol! Haribol! O Lord Hari, our Deliverer from death! Please allow these lowly sinners the shelter of your lotus feet. O Lord Hari, let Your fame of being the most kind-hearted master be glorified!

Jagai: O Nimai Pandit, O Most Merciful, again I implore You - You have kindly convinced us to always chant the Lord's Holy Names, now please engage us as Your menial servants. We do not want to return home; we always want to remain situated at Your lotus feet.

Caitanya: Listen! Listen, Jagai and Madhai, fear not any more, the Lord has granted the cooling shade of His shelter - both of you simply chant the Holy Names! The bonds of attachment will be easily slashed and the golden moon of loving devotion will rise on the horizon of your conscience. Be not anxious any more, the Lord's magnanimous. Here is the service I wish of you. From today on, go through the town chanting the Lord's Holy Names, that all may see the power to purify that the Holy Names possess. Seeing your example, they will also chant. In this way, the ocean of love of Krsna will overflow its banks and wash over the continent. GO - Nityananda Prabhu and Myself must stay here for now.
(Nityananda Prabhu and Lord Caitanya sings Udilo Aruno Puraba Majhe bhajan as the chanting party, with Jagai and Madhai, leaves.)

Caitanya: O Nitai, please hold Me - I cannot explain how I feel within. My mind finds peace with this thought - glorious is Your loving devotion! Your love has reached down to save even the most fallen. I will not remain in the household ashrama any longer. I will embrace the life of a renunciate, a sanyassi, distributing the Lord's sublime Name, from village to village. I cannot bear to see the misfortune of the living entities. Come, let us two brothers go to all corners of the nation and shower the Lord's name upon the conditioned souls! That will fill the world with joy, dispelling drudgery and fear.

Nityananda: My Brother! You have appeared in this world of Illusion in order to dissipate gross delusion. The world will swim in the ocean of Your love. The Cosmos can now step forward without anxiety. All glories! All glories! All glories to You, My Lord Gauranga! The burden of sin has been lifted and the azure vaults will ring with the sound of Lord Hari's Holy Names!

Caitanya: I will be a renunciate - a lover of the Holy Names. Why shall I stay

in My house? To the thirsty souls, I shall pour rains of divine nectar! My heart cries out for them

Hold Me, Nitai. I have sold myself to My beloved Lord Hari. My work is finished here in Nadia - come, let us go. Why delay further? Today, I shall go and beg leave of everyone.

(Both leave. Bhajan.)

Lord Nityananda Converts Jagai and Madhai #9

Scene One

(Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda come on stage and stand on a raised platform. A large sun and moon are behind Them as the Narrator speaks:)

Narrator: Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda are just like the sun and moon and have arisen simultaneously on the horizon of Gaudiya just to dissipate the darkness of ignorance and wonderfully bestow benediction upon all.

(Chanting parties come in, four devotees at a time. They tour around the village and then, after several parties have chanted together, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu comes on stage and they have a Sankirtan meeting:)

Vakresvara Pandit: Oh, merciful Lord Caitanya, we have been loudly and joyously chanting the Holy Names of the Lord -

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

just as You have instructed us!

Caitanya: My dear Nityananda and Haridasa, you are both dear to My heart. I think that only you, dear well-wishers, can relieve me of my anxiety.

Nityananda: Anxiety, prabhu? What anxiety?

Caitanya: Yes, I am now feeling a great mental anguish when I think of the multitudes of human beings suffering because of ignorance of the cooling shelter of the Lord. They are unaware of the mission of human life. Human life is meant to develop our love of Krsna and get out of the cycle of birth and death. Because of ignorance, they hopelessly embrace material pleasure as the reason for life itself.

Haridasa: My dear Lord, do not experience anxiety or be unhappy to see the unfortunate condition of people in material existence. They do not yet realize how much greater Krsna Consciousness is but in time they will.

Caitanya: Haridasa, please understand that they are constantly cheated by birth, disease, old age and death. I feel pain in My heart and head. Why should they suffer needlessly? Oh, how will these people be delivered?

Haridasa: They have good opportunity because You have descended as a devotee of Krsna to teach us how salvation from repeated birth can be attained by the chanting of Hare Krsna and dancing. Everyday, Nityananda Prabhu and I go out chanting the Maha Mantra and telling everyone about Your mission. **(Nityananda Prabhu sings a bhajan)** This Holy Name is so powerful that, if someone sincerely utters it even once, they can be freed from all karmic results and transcend their sinful past, achieving Krsnaloka in this lifetime.

Caitanya: Jai! With such strong faith in the Holy Names you two will bring the suffering of the whole world to an end!
Now that many devotees have come from all over the country to join our party here in Navadwip, we have to spread this cult of Krsna Consciousness more and more! That is the duty of every devotee of Krsna. I have already ordered that kirtan be performed in each and every home. Now, I am pleased to see that this is going on nicely, but this is not enough. We should never be content just to enjoy the ecstasy of devotional service ourselves, but should try as far as possible to spread it to all of the suffering souls. So, now I am making a new program. First of all, my two chief whips are Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakur.
(He places His hands affectionately on them.)
So, I am asking You both to go from door to door, from house to house, and humbly beg every man you meet to chant the Holy Names of Krsna.

All: Hari Bol! Jai Sri Krsna!

Caitanya: Every evening you should return to Me and tell Me about the day's preaching activities. What's more, I now want all of the devotees to take the chanting of the Holy Names out into the streets and market places. We have kept this nectar to ourselves long enough, now we must distribute it to everyone, and force them to drink this delicious nectar of the Holy Names!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

Caitanya: Now, more kirtan! Hari! Jai Sri Krsna! Hari Bol!
We will meet tonight at Srivas Prabhu's home for intimate kirtans. HARI BOL!

All: HARI BOL!!
(The kirtan parties sing as they leave the stage.)

Scene Two

(On the village street, Jagai and Madhai are intoxicated and a crowd has gathered to see them, laughing and taunting.)

Lalita: (sweeping) Look at those two debauchees, Jagai and Madhai! Although born in a good brahmana family, they are always intoxicated and today is no different!

Visahka: And if they are not drunk, then they are robbing or harassing or killing someone!

Candra: I heard that they have committed every sinful act listed in the Manu Samhita at least once!

Sakhi: Something very wonderful will have to happen for them to give up their sinful ways!

Lalita: And it better be soon, for all our sakes!!

(The women go back to their duties - sweeping, sewing, making garlands. Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur enter.)

Nityananda: Alright, Haridas, you take that house over there, down the street and work up and I will start here and work down towards you. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu has instructed us to humbly request everyone to chant the Hare Krsna Mahamantra and give up their sinful activity.

Haridasa: Sounds easy enough!

Nityananda: (sees Jagai and Madhai and the crowd around them) Ah, and here are two good candidates for Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's causeless mercy!

Haridas: These two drunkards look very dangerous! Perhaps, we should hone our preaching skills first on more pious gentlemen of the village. If we fail to convert these fellows, then people in general may think that it is the bhakti process that is ineffective!

Nityananda: But, if we do convert these men then the name of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu will be all the more glorious as Patita Pavana - the deliverer of the most fallen!!

(Nityananda Prabhu parts the crowd and stands before Jagai and Madhai.)

O Spirit Souls, Wake Up! Wake up - Just chant
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
and your life will be sublime!!

Jagai: Oh, yeah, right! I've heard that mantra before! Leave us alone! Can't you see that we're having fun?

Madhai: Yeah, a party! Care to join us?

Nityananda: You are eternal spirit souls, part and parcel of the Supreme! If you will just taste the nectar of the Holy Name you will realize that this other drink is just poison! Come on, sing it with me, now!!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Jagai: Beat it!

Madhai: Get out of my face! Stop that noise!

Nityananda: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Haridas: (pulling Nityananda Prabhu away) Come on, Nityananda Prabhu; they have no desire to hear! Since most of the residents of this area are here observing this disturbance, we will go to the next neighborhood, now.

(They leave.)

Scene Three

(Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu sits and chants softly. Nityananda Prabhu, Haridas Thakur and the other devotees enter. Lord Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu embrace while Haridas Thakur offers obeisances.)

Haridas: My dear Lord, You know how I love preaching the glories of the Holy Name, but could I please have some other Sankirtan partner? This Nityananda Prabhu is a madman! Sometimes, He rolls on the ground in ecstatic love and does all sorts of uncommon things!

Nityananda: I would go to every house in the Hindu section and when the householder came to his door, I would fall down at his feet and cry, "Please, I beg you! Just always chant the Holy Names Hare Krsna and depend upon Him!" Hardly a gentleman refused me and so, in this way, many fallen souls were saved today!

Haridas: He would roll about the floor in the entrance way; he wouldn't leave until the householders were all crying, too!

Haridas: Nityananda Prabhu sometimes jumps on the backs of bulls crying "I am Lord Siva" and He grabs the hands of the small girls saying "Come, We will dance in the moonlight for a night of Lord Brahma!"

Caitanya: I am sure Nityananda Prabhu will try and subdue His ecstatic emotions at least for today. All right, Nitai?

(Haridas Thakur and Nityananda Prabhu embrace.)

Nityananda Prabhu! Haridasa! Please tell me of your day's preaching!

Nityananda: Today, my Lord, we have met the most fallen two men, born sons of Brahmans, Jagai and Madhai. Their lives are most abominable, engaged in all sorts of debauchery. My Lord, we approached them and pleaded with them to take Your mercy and chant just once the Holy Name but most lamentably they could not do so due to their pride and their intoxicated state.

Caitanya: Today, You have achieved something very rare. I, Myself, could not have done this. By attempting to deliver these two scoundrels, You have set an example for all devotees. Your activities have greatly touched my heart and I will never be able to repay you.

Vakresvare Pandit, you take Mukunda Datta with you. Vasu Ghosa and Achutananda go to the south quarter of Navadvip to preach. Sivananda Sena, you and Ballabhadra take Ramananda, Govinda, Purusottama and Madhava Ghosh on kirtan into Antardvip. Murari Gupta you will go with Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur on door to door Sankirtan!

(Everyone starts leaving and Nityananda Prabhu brings Murari Gupta to the front.)

Nityananda: We have a special mission today, Murari. Today we will demonstrate the power of the Holy Name!

(They have a kirtan as they walk. They enter Jagai and Madhai's neighborhood.)

Jagai: Stop that noise, I said!

Madhai: I can't stand it! It hurts my ears! Oh, it's You! We told You not to come back!!

Nityananda: We have come to beg you to chant the Holy Name of the Lord - Hare Krsna!

Madhai: Forget it! Now get out of here!
(He throws a piece of earthen pot at Nityananda Prabhu.)

Murari: Oh! Sri Krishna Caitanya!
(Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu enters running, in a fiery, angry mood. He is displaying His disc weapon, the Sudarshan Cakra.)

Caitanya: How dare you!? I can tolerate any offense on my own behalf, but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotee! You are finished!

Nityananda: No, My Lord! In this incarnation, You come with Your devotees and the Holy Name as Your weapons - not the Sudarshan Cakra! My Lord! My Lord, please remember the purpose of Your mission! You have come to save such fallen souls. If You kill these two brothers then You will have to kill almost everyone else because these two are typical of the fallen condition of men in this age. Please, instead give them Your mercy and save them from the material snare of illusion!

Jagai: Yes! We are so sorry, Lord! We're fallen, please save us!

Madhai: We didn't mean it! We have been in such bad maya for so long! I'm sorry please forgive me for offending Your devotee!

Nityananda: Just hear them, Lord! They have sincerely requested Your mercy! My wound is not grave and I want to forgive them. I beg You to forgive them, Lord.

Jagai: We'll chant all the time!

Madhai: We'll be your servants!

Caitanya: Because You have requested My mercy on their behalf, I will accept them as My bhaktas.
(turning to Jagai and Madhai) but, I have a condition: you must give up all meat- eating, intoxication, womanizing and gambling. If you are willing to make these changes then I will accept you as my students and give you My full blessing!

Jagai: Yes! I will never do these things ever again! I'll just chant Hare Krsna all the time! Thank you!

Madhai: Yes, I promise!! Thank You!

Caitanya: Then rise up, my sons! Rise up! I forgive your sins and ignorance. It is this submission to spiritual guidance that justifies your human birth.

Caitanya: You have received the special mercy of Nityananda Prabhu. He is the most compassionate Person because He is intoxicated by ecstatic love of Krsna. He is the very incarnation of Mercy! He does not distinguish between the good and the bad and will deliver even the most sinful of sinners! Fall at the Lotus Feet of Nityananda Prabhu!

(Jagai and Madhai offer obeisances to Lord Nityananda.)

Now take these names into Your heart and chant Hare Krsna! At last, Jagai and Madhai have returned to our party!! Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

Nityananda: My Lord, Your complexion has turned black! You have absorbed all the sins of Jagai and Madhai!

Caitanya: Jagai and Madhai are now completely pure. But, in the Future, I may not be so tolerant. If one purposefully offends My devotee, I will put upon that person all the sinful reactions of Jagai and Madha!

Narrator: Jagai and Madhai became ideal Vaisnavas to the great astonishment of the residents of Navadvip. Everyday Jagai would chant 200,000 Names of Krsna and Madhai personally built a large ghat to facilitate pilgrims passing through. People came from hundreds of miles around to see these two changed brothers and Madhai would wash the feet of 500 Vaisnavas every day. Everyone commented that a more blissful and grateful pair could not possibly be found in this world.

Murari: Nityananda Prabhu ki jaya! Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki jaya! Sri Krsna Caitanya Sankirtan Movement ki jaya!!

(Chanting party enters. Everyone, including Jagai and Madhai participates and encourages the audience to chant

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
***Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*.**

The Conversion of Jagai and Madhai #10

Scene One - Jagai and Madhai's Neighborhood

(Actors are already on stage. The drunken brothers are harassing a merchant.)

Merchant: But But, I am just a simple man; I have never harmed you or anyone! Why do you always persecute me!?

Jagai: Because I am Jagai!!

Madhai: And I am Madhai!!

Jagai: And we do what we like! We are rich and powerful!

Madhai: We take what we like, whenever we want, and no one can stop us!!

Merchant: (softly) Except the Supreme Lord!

Jagai: What? What is it that you are mumbling about? Someone tougher than me?!

Merchant: The Supreme Lord, Sri Krsna, is very merciful to all living entities. His Holy Name is so sweet that

Madhai: Enough! You are just trying to squirm out of paying the taxes you owe us!
(A Sankirtan party approaches, Lord Nityananda dances joyfully in the front.)

Jagai: Others, like you, have tried, but somehow they have all been involved in some horrible accidents.

Madhai: You have one week to pay or we shall have to visit your shop. Do you understand?

Merchant: Yes, yes, I understand!
(Merchant bows from the waist and exits.)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai, come have a look at what's coming that procession of singing and dancing. I don't like it; it's weird.

Jagai: Oh, don't worry about them. They're just some crazy Vaisnavas on a recruitment drive. Do you remember that mantra our father used to chant? Well, that's what they're chanting!

Madhai: Sentimentalists! Just look at the fools! And look at their Leader!!

Haridas: You see, I told you that we were proceeding too far into the bad part of town. There's no one here that we can preach to, Nityananda Prabhu. Let's turn around and hurry back to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's ashram. He will be expecting us to return about now.

Nityananda: Haridasa, my friend, just see for yourself the mercy of the Supreme

Lord! There are two fallen souls who are about to receive the mercy of the Holy Name. Let's ask them to chant with us!

Haridas: Be careful, my dear Nityananda! Those are two of the most dangerous criminals in Navadvip - Jagai and his elder brother, Madhai. They are well known for their violence and their hatred of the Vaisnavas. They were born in a good family of Vaisnavas but they have long surrendered to the depravaties of strong drink!

Nityananda: That may be, but Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's order is that we request everyone we meet to chant the Holy Name and be happy!
(They go closer to Jagai and Madhai.)

Jagai: I don't believe it! They're coming even closer!

Nityananda: My brothers, just chant the Holy Names and be happy! Join us! Chant! Dance!

Jagai: You must be mad! We will never partake of your crazy ways!

Madhai: Fools! Do you know who we are!?

Nityananda: We do indeed know you, Brothers. But do you know who you are? For self-realization, the easy and sublime method for this age is to chant the Holy Name constantly. Please leave aside your sinful ways and join us. Dance and chant and your lives will be sublime!

Jagai: Enough of this! Take your religion elsewhere! We don't need this Hare Hare stuff!

Madhai: Yeah, we're happy when we have plenty to drink!

Jagai: Go! Get out of here! Go now go!
(They two brothers chase Nityananda Prabhu and the chanting party away.)
And don't come back! If you come back, you will feel the wrath of Jagai and Madhai!!

Scene Two - The Ashram of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu

(Kirtan party is heard offstage.)

Caitanya: Glory to the Sri Krsna Sankirtan, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death.

This Sankirtan Movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.

O My Lord, Your holy name alone can render all benediction to living beings, and thus You have hundreds and millions of names like Krsna and Govinda. In these transcendental names You have invested all Your transcendental energies. There are not even hard and fast rules for chanting these names. O My Lord, out of kindness You enable us to easily approach You by Your Holy Names, but I am so unfortunate that I have no attraction for Them.

One should chant the Holy Names of the Lord in a humble state of mind, thinking oneself lower than the straw in the street; one should be more tolerant than a tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige and should be ready to offer all respects to others. In such a state of mind one can chant the Holy Names of the Lord constantly.

O almighty Lord, I have no desire to accumulate wealth, nor do I desire beautiful women. Nor do I want any number of followers. I only want Your causeless devotional service, birth after birth.

O son of Maharaj Nanda (Krsna), I am Your eternal servitor, yet somehow or other I have fallen into the ocean of birth and death. Please pick me up from this ocean of death and place Me as one of the atoms at Your lotus feet.

O My Lord, when will my eyes be decorated with tears of love flowing constantly when I chant Your Holy Names? When will My voice choke up, and when will the hairs of My body stand on end at the recitation of Your Name?

O Govinda! Feeling Your separation, I am considering a moment to be like twelve years or more. Tears are flowing from My eyes like torrents of rain and I am feeling all vacant in the world in Your absence.

I know no one but Krsna as My Lord, and He shall remain so even if He handles Me roughly by His embrace or makes Me brokenhearted by not being present before Me. He is completely free to do anything and everything, for He is always My worshipful Lord, unconditionally.

(Kirtan party enters.)

Ah, here comes my two chief preachers, Haridasa Thakura and Nityananda Prabhu! Kindly tell me all about your preaching activities today!

Nityananda: O Gauranga, by Your mercy, many fallen souls were delivered and have accepted Lord Krsna as their life and soul! However, there were two brothers who we could not save.

Haridasa: My Lord, they chased us! Indeed, they would not even listen to what we had to say, but abused us with vile language and tried to attack us! I had to grab Nityananda Prabhu and hurry Him away. We escaped by the mercy of Lord Krsna!

Caitanya: Who are these two villains?!

Nityananda: Their names are Jagai and Madhai. Although they are employed by the government to collect taxes, they simply terrorize and plunder the innocent citizens!

1st Devotee: These two tyrants are a law unto themselves! Leading a band of many brigands, they roam about the village and pillage good people!

2nd Devotee: Nobody dares defy them, for they have already murdered over a hundred people!

Caitanya: Such unfortunate rascals! They do not realize how much they will have to suffer in the future for their abominable activities! If only there was some way in which they could be delivered!

2nd Devotee: Surely, we should try to avoid trouble and not agitate them any further! I have heard that they are camped in this quarter of the town - who knows, they may even come here and cause trouble, for they are notorious as devil worshippers and despise all devotees of the Lord!

Haridas: This is true. But, on the other hand, it is the desire of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu that even the most fallen soul be delivered. We must not be deterred, for surely Krsna will protect us!

Nityananda: Yes, Haridas is right! By risking one's life in the service of the Lord, one is sure to attain the mercy of Krsna, Let us go back there and try again to save them!

1st Devotee: But, how are you going to do it? If you approach then in the same way they may simply become more violent towards you!

Caitanya: My dear friends, this evil age of Kali is an ocean of darkness. But, there is one ray of Light and that is the Holy Name of the Lord, which has descended directly from the spiritual world. Whatever a person's material condition may be, he can be delivered only by the sublime process of chanting the Holy Names of Lord Hari! Therefore, tomorrow you must form a very large Sankirtan party and go directly to the camp of Jagai and Madhai. With humbleness and compassion, ask them to join you and bring them back here to our camp for training.

All: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki Jaya!

Scene Three - In Jagai and Madhai's Neighborhood

(Village women are sweeping as the Merchant passes.)

1st Woman: Did you see that poor merchant?

2nd Woman: He is not as poor as you think. But, did you know that he has come into some sort of trouble, lately?

1st Woman: Trouble? But, he is a Vaisnava! What trouble could be so great?

2nd Woman: The local tax collectors, Jagai and Madhai, have chosen him for their attentions. They will make him an example to all others.

1st Woman: Poor man!

2nd Woman: Can anyone stop those rogues!?

1st Woman: Not the government. They are killers, too! If his faith is strong, then Lord Krsna will protect him for Krsna is bound by His devotees' love.

2nd Woman: You're right, but I hope Krsna doesn't wait too long. Something very amazing will have to happen to make Jagai and Madhai give up their sinful ways!

2nd Woman: Well, I hope it happens soon for all of our sakes. We could be Jagai and Madhai's next "example" of their tyranny!

(The kirtan party enters, singing sweetly. Jagai and Madhai go to the merchant's shop, mess up the front display and begin tossing a valuable piece back and forth.)

Merchant: Stop that! Stop that, please!

Madhai: Ah, but you have not paid the taxes as we asked! So, why should we do what you ask?

Jagai: Just consider the law of karma, dear merchant. In some previous life, you must have been a thief or cheater and we were reincarnated here to purify your existence!
(Jagai and Madhai laugh. Jagai begins tossing more merchandise up and down, letting it drop on purpose, then mockingly shrugging his shoulders.)

Jagai: Ooopsy! Accidents will happen, won't they?

Madhai: (Bothered by kirtan) What in the name of hell is going on here!?

Jagai: It's those Vaisnava singers again! They've got some nerve to come around with their wailing!

Nityananda: Jagai! Madhai!

Jagai: What!? Are You calling us? What do You want!?

Madhai: Oh, it's those Two again!

Nityananda: We have come to request you to chant the Holy Name, for by doing so all your sins will be nullified and your lives will be sublime!!

Madhai: We have heard that before and we have no faith in it. I will teach you that you cannot disturb Jagai and Madhai while they work!

Nityananda: You can Experience love of Krsna yourself by chanting the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Madhai: I warned you not to make me mad!

(Madhai throws a piece of earthen pot at Lord Nityananda, hitting Him in the forehead. Haridas Thakur supports Nityananda Prabhu.)

Nityananda: It does not matter that you have done this. I still implore you, please come and chant with us!

Madhai: You never learn, do you?
(He picks up another piece of pot and moves toward Lord Nityananda menacingly.)

Jagai: No, Madhai! What are you doing?

Madhai: I'm going to throw another one

Jagai: No, Madhai! Can't you see how humble Nityananda Prabhu is! This guy's for real, Madhai! He's pure! He's not a cheater! We should respect this kind of Vaisnava
(Lord Caitanya enters quickly. He is angry and wields His Sudarshon Cakra weapon.)

Caitanya: How dare you hurt Lord Nityananda! I can tolerate any offense to Myself but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotee!!
(Jagai and Madhai cower and grovel fearfully.)

Jagai: We're sorry! Please don't kill us!!

Madhai: We won't do it again! We'll chant all the time!! We already know all the words!

Nityananda: (restraining Lord Caitanya) Wait, My Lord!! Your mission is not to kill but to deliver such rascals as these two! If You kill these two, You may as well kill everybody, for in this age, practically all the people are just as fallen as these two! Please, show them Your mercy; I beg You!!

Caitanya: Very well, I will spare you, but on one condition only -you must solemnly promise that,from this very moment, you will abandon all your sinful ways and take up the chanting of the Holy Names as your only shelter.

Jagai: My dear Lord, You are the Most Merciful Person and Therefore, we will do whatever You ask of us!

Madhai: I am the most abominable of all men and do not deserve to be delivered! But, still I beg that You will permit me to be Your lowest of servants!!

Caitanya: You need not fear any longer; although you were the most fallen, by the mercy of Nitai, you have become the most fortunate.
(Lord Caitanya raises them to their feet and presents them to the kirtan party.) All Vaisnavas may rejoice this day, for on this day Jagai and Madhai have returned to our association! (Devotees cheer.)

Nityananda: My dear Gauranga, You are so kind to the people of this dark age, for You are freely giving the highest benediction - pure loving service to Krsna to anyone who simply takes shelter of Your Lotus

Feet.

Caitanya: Everyone chant Hare Krsna!

Devotee: Sri Nityananda Prabhu ki jaya!!
Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki jaya!!
(Kirtan)

The Conversion of Jagai and Madhai #11

Scene One - Jagai and Madhai's Neighborhood

(Actors are already on stage. The drunken brothers are harassing a merchant. A crowd has gathered. A kirtan party enters with Nityananda Prabhu dancing joyfully at the front. Seeing the disturbance, they stop chanting.)

Merchant: But But, I am just a simple man; I have never harmed you or anyone! Why do you always persecute me!?

Jagai: Because I am Jagai!!

Madhai: And I am Madhai!!

Jagai: And we do what we like! We are rich and powerful!

Madhai: We take what we like, whenever we want, and no one can stop us!!

Haridas: (to Villager) My dear sir, what is all this commotion? What is going on?

Villager: It's those two drunken brothers, Jagai and Madhai! They are always drunk on cheap liquor and creating a public disturbance! You would never guess that they are the sons of a brahmana!

2nd Villager: That's not all! Because of their bad association, they eat meat, they hunt women and everyone calls them dacoits and sinners!

Narrator: Nityananda Prabhu heard all these stories and decided that these two fallen souls must be the first to be delivered. If they were delivered from their sinful life, then the good name of Lord Caitanya would be even more glorified. Thinking in this way, Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur pushed their way through the crowd and requested Jagai and Madhai to chant the Holy Names of Krsna.

Madhai: (to Merchant) Enough! You are just trying to squirm out of paying the taxes you owe us!

Jagai: Others, like you, have tried, but somehow they have all been involved in some horrible accidents.

Madhai: You have one week to pay or we shall have to visit your shop. Do you understand?

Merchant: Yes, yes, I understand!
(Merchant bows from the waist and exits.)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai, come have a look at what's here that procession of singers and dancers. I don't like it; it's weird.

Jagai: Oh, don't worry about them. They're just some crazy

Vaisnavas on a recruitment drive. Do you remember that mantra our father used to chant? Well, that's what they're chanting!

Madhai: Sentimentalists! Just look at the fools! And look at their leader!!

Haridas: You see, I told you that we were proceeding too far into the bad part of town. There's no one here that we can preach to, Nityananda Prabhu. Let's turn around and hurry back to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's ashram. He will be expecting us to return about now.

Nityananda: Haridas, my friend, just see for yourself the mercy of the Supreme Lord! There are two fallen souls who are about to receive the mercy of the Holy Name. Let's ask them to chant with us!

Haridas: Be careful, my dear Nityananda! Those are two of the most dangerous criminals in Navadvip - Jagai and his elder brother, Madhai. They are well known for their violence and their hatred of the Vaisnavas!

Nityananda: That may be, but Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's order is that we request everyone we meet to chant the Holy Name and be happy!
(They go closer to Jagai and Madhai.)

Jagai: I don't believe it! They're coming even closer!

Nityananda: My brothers, just chant the Holy Names and be happy! Join us! Chant! Dance!

Jagai: You must be mad! We will never partake of your crazy ways!

Madhai: Fools! Do you know who we are!?

Nityananda: We do indeed know you, brothers. But do you know who you are? For self-realization, the easy and sublime method for this age is to chant the Holy Name constantly. Please leave aside your sinful ways and join us. Dance and chant and your lives will be sublime!

Jagai: Enough of this! Take your religion elsewhere! We don't need this Hare Hare stuff!

Madhai: Yeah, we're happy when we have plenty to drink!

Jagai: Go! Get out of here! Go now go!

Madhai: And don't come back! If you come back, you will feel the wrath of Jagai and Madhai!!

Narrator: Both brothers chased the devotees a considerable distance. That evening, the report of the preaching work was submitted to the Lord and He was glad to learn that Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas had attempted to deliver even such unlikely candidates.

Scene Two - The Ashram of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu

(Kirtan party is heard offstage.)

Nityananda: O Gauranga, by Your mercy, many fallen souls were delivered and have accepted Lord Krsna as their life and soul! However, there were two brothers who we could not save.

Haridasa: My Lord, they chased us! Indeed, they would not even listen to what we had to say, but abused us with vile language and tried to attack us! I had to grab Nityananda Prabhu and hurry Him away. We escaped by the mercy of Lord Krsna!

Caitanya: Who are these two villains?!

Nityananda: Their names are Jagai and Madhai. Although they are employed by the government to collect taxes, they simply terrorize and plunder the innocent citizens!

1st Devotee: These two tyrants are a law unto themselves! Leading a band of many brigands, they roam about the village and pillage good people!

2nd Devotee: Nobody dares defy them, for they have already murdered over a hundred people!

Caitanya: Such unfortunate rascals! They do not realize how much they will have to suffer in the future for their abominable activities! If only there was some way in which they could be delivered!

2nd devotee: Surely, we should try to avoid trouble and not agitate them any further! I have heard that they are camped in this quarter of the town - who knows, they may even come here and cause trouble, for the are infamous devil worshippers and despise all devotees of the Lord!

Haridas: This is true. But, on the other hand, it is the desire of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu that even the most fallen soul be delivered. We must not be deterred, for surely Krsna will protect us!

Nityananda: Yes, Haridas is right! By risking one's life in the service of the Lord, one is sure to attain the mercy of Krsna, Let us go back there and try again to save them!

Devotee: But, how are you going to do it? If you approach then in the same way they may simply become more violent towards you!

Caitanya: My dear friends, this evil age of Kali is an ocean of darkness. But, there is one ray of Light and that is the Holy Name of the Lord, which has descended directly from the spiritual world. Whatever a person's material condition may be, he can be delivered only by the sublime process of chanting the Holy Names of Lord Hari! Therefore, tomorrow you must form a very large Sankirtan party and go directly to the camp of Jagai and Madhai. With humbleness and compassion, ask them to join you and bring them back here to our camp for training.

All: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki Jaya!

Scene Three - In Jagai and Madhai's Neighborhood

Narrator: The next day, Nityananda Prabhu went to see the brothers and as soon as He approached them

Madhai: (Bothered by kirtan) What in the name of hell is going on here!?

Jagai: It's those Vaisnava singers again! They've got some nerve to come around with their wailing!

Nityananda: Jagai! Madhai!

Jagai: What!? Are You calling us? What do You want!?

Madhai: Oh, it's those Two again!

Nityananda: We have come to request you to chant the Holy Name for by doing so, all your sins will be nullified and your lives will be sublime!!

Madhai: We have heard that before and we have no faith in it. I will teach you that you cannot disturb Jagai and Madhai while they work!

Nityananda: You can experience love of Krsna yourself by chanting the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra!

Madhai: I warned you not to make me mad!
(Madhai throws a piece of earthen pot at Lord Nityananda, hitting Him in the forehead. Haridas Thakur supports Nityananda Prabhu.)

Nityananda: It does not matter that you have this stone at me. I still implore you, please come and chant with us!
Come and realize your real nature as blissful servants of the Holy Name!!

Narrator: One of the brothers, Jagai, was astonished to see the saintly behavior of Nityananda Prabhu and he at once fell down at the lotus feet of Nityananda Prabhu and begged Him to pardon his sinful brother.

Jagai: Forgive my poor, sinful brother, O Great Sadhu, please!!

Madhai: What are you saying, Brother? I'll show him my real nature ...
(He picks up another piece of pot and moves toward Lord Nityananda menacingly.)

Jagai: No, Madhai! What are you doing?

Madhai: I'm going to throw another one

Jagai: No, Madhai! Can't you see how humble Nityananda Prabhu is! This guy's for real, Madhai! He's pure! He's not a cheater! We should respect this kind of Vaisnava What harm has this brahmana done to you? He was actually trying to help us! No one ever tries to be nice to us anymore or

try to help us This devotee is a saint Madhai!!
(Jagai wrestles Madhai to the ground and tries to calm him.)

Narrator: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was aware of Nityananda Prabhu's injury and He at once hurried to the spot in a fiery and angry mood. The Lord immediately invoked His Sudarsana Cakra weapon, the Lord's ultimate weapon, shaped like a wheel, to punish the miscreants but Lord Nityananda restrained Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, reminding Him of His mission to show compassion to all living entities.
(Lord Caitanya enters quickly. He is angry and wields His Sudarsan Cakra.)

Caitanya: How dare you hurt Lord Nityananda! I can tolerate any offense to Myself but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotee!!
(Jagai and Madhai cower and grovel fearfully.)

Jagai: We're sorry! Please don't kill us!!

Madhai: We won't do it again! We'll chant all the time!! We already know all the words!

Nityananda: (restraining Lord Caitanya) Wait, My Lord!! Your mission is not to kill but to deliver such rascals as these two! If You kill these two, You may as well kill everybody, for in this age, practically all the people are just as fallen as these two! Please, show them Your mercy; I beg You!!

Caitanya: (to Jagai and Madhai) Very well, I will spare you, but on one condition only - you must solemnly promise that, from this very moment, you will abandon all your sinful ways and take up the chanting of the Holy Names as your only shelter.

Jagai: My dear Lord, You are the Most Merciful Person and Therefore, we will do whatever You ask of us!

Madhai: I am the most abominable of all men and do not deserve to be delivered! But, still I beg that You will permit me to be Your lowest of servants.

Caitanya: You need not fear any longer; although you were the most fallen, by the mercy of Nitai, you have become the most fortunate.
(Lord Caitanya raises them to their feet and presents them to the kirtan party.) All Vaisnavas may rejoice this day, for on this day Jagai and Madhai have returned to our association!
(Devotees cheer.)

Narrator: The Lord agreed to spare Jagai and Madhai by Nityananda Prabhu's request and therefore He accepted them into His own association and did not again refer to their past misdeeds. This is an example of the specific kindness of Lord Caitanya.

In this age, no one can say that he is free from sin. But, Lord Caitanya still accepts all kinds of sinful persons on the one condition that they promise not to indulge in sinful habits after being spiritually initiated by the bona fide master.

Caitanya: Everyone chant Hare Krsna!

Devotee: Sri Nityananda Prabhu ki jaya!!
Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki jaya!!
(Kirtan)

The Merciful Lords - The Deliverance of Jagai and Madhai #12

Scene One

Caitanya: My dear Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur, please go door to door and request each and every householder to chant the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra. Preach to them about Krsna Consciousness.

Harer nama Harer nama, Harer namaiva Kevalam
Kalau nasty eva nasty eva gatir anyatha.

Explain to them that in this Kali yuga, the chanting of the Holy Name of Hare and Krsna is the only way to make spiritual advancement. Whoever chants Krsna's name, he becomes My heart and soul!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur go door to door.)

Nityananda: Let us start with this house.

Haridas: All right. **(He knocks.)**

1st Householder: Yes, may I help you?

Nityananda: Namaskar!

1st Householder: Namaskar!

Nityananda: My name is Nityananda Prabhu and this is H. We come to request you to chant the Holy Name of the Lord -
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

1st Householder: It is very nice of you to suggest this but I am always going here and there, working very hard I have a large family to take care of and I am always very busy. I have absolutely no time to sit and chant. I am thinking that if I just perform my household duties perfectly, God will be pleased. If I should outlive my debts and responsibilities, then, in my old age, I will simply sit and chant all the day.

Nityananda: But, no one knows when time …

1st Householder: I would like to spend more time with you but I have to go now. Please excuse me. Gooday!
(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur go on.)

Nityananda: Men in this age are unfortunate, short-lived, misguided and, above all, always disturbed.

Haridas: Nityananda Prabhu, let's speak to that man in the street.

Nityananda: All right.

Haridas: Dear sir, may we talk to you for a moment?

Man: Yes, of course.

Haridas: My name is Haridasa and this is Nityananda Prabhu. We have come here to advise you to chant the Holy Names of the Lord, specifically
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Madhai: Advise? Who wants your advice? I did not ask for Your advice. How do you know that I am not spiritually higher than you? Who gave you permission to disturb the public on the street? I don't care about Your God. I don't believe in Your God. You fake monks! I advise You to keep Your God in Your own temple and stop bothering people happily walking about on the street! Do you understand?

Nityananda: Let's just go, Haridas; we'll try another house. How about that one?

Haridas: Hare Krsna! **(He knocks.)**

Nityananda: Krsna says in the Bhagavad Gita, "They say that there is no God in control and has no purpose except for sex ..."

2nd Householder: Namaskar, Sadhus, how may I serve You?

Nityananda: In this fallen Age, there is only one way to make spiritual advancement. That is the constant chanting of the Holy Names of the Lord.
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(All three sing it together a few times.)
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

2nd Householder: It is nice, but what will happen if I add this chanting to my life?

Nityananda: Krsna is in His Name, so when you chant His Name, He is Present in that sound vibration! The more you associate with Krsna in the form of His Holy Names, the more past sins you will burn away. The Process is ever fresh and engages all your senses. Your material desires diminish and very soon you will go Back to Home, Back to Godhead.

2nd Householder: This is wonderful. I am already attracted to this mantra!

Nityananda: Then, you will chant this Maha Mantra every day?

2nd Householder: Yes, I will try. Thank you for coming here.

Haridas: Thank you very much. We had better go now, because we have many

householders to visit. Hari Bol!

2nd Householder: Hari Bol!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur leave.)

Nityananda: What is that big crowd over there? Let us go and see.
(Jagai and Madhai enter in a drunken state.)
***

Nityananda: Let us go and preach to them!

Haridas: Are You sure we should? They look like dangerous men.

Nityananda: Yes, because Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu has ordered us to ask everyone to chant the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra!

Haridas: But, I am afraid that they may hit You!

Nityananda: I don't mind if they hit Me, but I must preach to these two!

Madhai: What are you looking at? What are you looking at?
(they frighten the townspeople.)

Jagai: Madhai, we must be the lords of this land!

Madhai: Yeah, we tell 'em to jump and they say "how high?"

Jagai:(going to onlooker) My dear sir, please give me your money!

Madhai: We're the tax collectors!
(They laugh. Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur push through the outraged crowd and approach Jagai and Madhai.)

Madhai: Hey, Jagai, look! It's some of those weird street singers!

Jagai: I wonder which hole these guys crawled out of?

Nityananda: Please, I humbly request you to give up these disturbing activities and chant the Holy Name of Lord Hari. These names will deliver you from your sinful life and bestow upon you supreme transcendental happiness and the greatest of riches - love of Krsna!
(Jagai and Madhai laugh uncontrollably and ridicule Nityananda Prabhu.)

Madhai: (charging at Nityananda Prabhu) Boo!

Jagai: You guys don't seem to understand that my brother and I, we are the lords of this land.

Madhai: We don't want any beggars here!

Jagai: Get lost! Go find a job somewhere!

Nityananda: My dear sirs, I beg you to chant the Holy Names of the Lord! Chant Hare Krsna! Hare Krsna!

Jagai: What!? Holy Name!? Did you hear that Madhai? What is He trying to say?

Madhai: He's begging us to chant Hare Krsna, Jagai! Look, we are Holy Men ourselves. We are brahmanas. See, here are our brahmana threads. **(They show their threads.)**

Jagai: Yeah, our Father was always doing Puja at the Krsna temple!

Nityananda: Good, then let us chant together right now.
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Jagai: Get away from us, right now!

(Jagai pushes Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur. Jagai and Madhai laugh loudly. They chase Nityananda Prabhu and Haridas Thakur away.)

Madhai: If You come back we will beat You up!

Scene Two - Next Day

Nityananda: There are Jagai and Madhai, let's try to preach to them again!

Haridas: My dear Nityananda Prabhu, do you remember what they said yesterday? How they chased us? I am afraid that they are going to hurt You! Please, let's go the other way.

Nityananda: I don't mind if they hurt Me; it is Our duty to deliver fallen souls so we must go and preach to them!

Madhai:(Bothered by kirtan) What in the name of hell is going on here!?

Jagai: It's those Vaisnava singers again! They've got some nerve to come around with their wailing!

Nityananda: Jagai! Madhai!

Jagai: What!? Are You calling us? What do You want!?

Madhai: Oh, it's those Two again!

Nityananda: We have come to request you to chant the Holy Name for by doing so, all your sins will be nullified and your lives will be sublime!!

Madhai: We have heard that before and we have no faith in it. I will teach you that you cannot disturb Jagai and Madhai while they work!

Nityananda: Experience love of Krsna yourself by chanting the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra!

Madhai: I warned you not to make me mad!
(Madhai throws a piece of earthen pot at Lord Nityananda, hitting Him in the forehead. Haridas Thakur supports Nityananda Prabhu.)

Nityananda: It does not matter that you have this stone at me. I still implore you, please come and chant with us!
Come and realize your real nature as blissful servants of the Holy Name!!

Narrator: One of the brothers, Jagai, was astonished to see the saintly behavior of Nityananda Prabhu and he at once fell down at the lotus feet of Nityananda Prabhu and begged Him to pardon his sinful brother.

Jagai: Wait, Madhai! Stop!**(to Nityananda Prabhu)** Forgive my poor, sinful brother, O Great Sadhu, please!!

Madhai: What are you saying, Brother? I'll show him my real nature ...
(He picks up another piece of pot and moves toward Lord Nityananda menacingly.)

Jagai: No, Madhai! What are you doing?

Madhai: I'm going to throw another one.

Jagai: No, Madhai! Can't you see how humble Nityananda Prabhu is! This guy's for real, Madhai! He's pure! He's not a cheater! We should respect this kind of Vaisnava. What harm has this brahmana done to you? He was actually trying to help us! No one ever tries to be nice to us anymore or try to help us. This devotee is a saint Madhai!!
(Jagai wrestles Madhai to the ground and tries to calm him.)

Narrator: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was aware of Nityananda Prabhu's injury and He at once hurried to the spot in a fiery and angry mood. The Lord immediately invoked His Sudarsana Cakra weapon, the Lord's ultimate weapon, shaped like a wheel, to punish the miscreants but Lord Nityananda restrained Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, reminding Him of His mission to show compassion to all living entities.
(Lord Caitanya enters quickly. He is angry and wields His Sudarsan Cakra.)

Caitanya: How dare you hurt Lord Nityananda! I can tolerate any offense to Myself but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotee!!
(Jagai and Madhai cower and grovel fearfully.)

Jagai: We're sorry! Please don't kill us!!

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Nityananda: (restraining Lord Caitanya) Wait, My Lord!! Your mission is not to kill but to deliver such rascals as these two! If You kill these two, You may as well kill everybody, for in this age, practically all the people are just as fallen as these two! Please, show them Your mercy; I beg You!!

Caitanya: (to Jagai and Madhai) Very well, I will spare you, but on one condition only - you must solemnly promise that, from this very moment, you will abandon all your sinful ways and take up the chanting of the Holy Names as your only shelter.

Jagai: My dear Lord, You are the Most Merciful Person and therefore, we will do whatever You ask of us!

Madhai: I am the most abominable of all men and do not deserve to be delivered! But, still I beg that You will permit me to be Your lowest of servants.

Caitanya: You need not fear any longer; although you were the most fallen, by the mercy of Nitai, you have become the most fortunate.
(Lord Caitanya raises them to their feet and presents them to the kirtan party.) All Vaisnavas may rejoice this day, for on this day Jagai and Madhai have returned to our association!
(Devotees cheer.)

Everyone chant Hare Krsna!

Devotee: Sri Nityananda Prabhu ki jaya!!
Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ki jaya!!
(Kirtan)

The King Who Swept the Road

Scene One

(The King is writing a letter. He speaks it aloud.)

Prataparudga: My dear Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, you know my heart, please arrange a meeting for me with Lord Caitanya.
(He claps his hands and a servant comes before him.)
Please take this letter to Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya.
(The servant takes the letter to SB on the other side of the stage. SB sets aside his studies and reads the letter.)

Sarvabhauma: Thank you, I will ask Lord Caitanya.
(returns and writes a reply for the servant to carry to the King.)
Please take this message to King Prataparuda. Thank you.
(The servant returns to the King, knocks, and hands the reply to the King. The king reads it.)

Prataparudga: Oh no! I've been refused! I will not give up!! I must see Lord Caitanya!!
(He writes another letter.)
Please appeal, on my behalf, to all the devotees of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. They can ask Him to speak with me. Only by their mercy will I ever be able to offer myself at His lotus feet. If Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu refuses again to see me, I shall give up my kingdom, become a mendicant and beg from door to door.
(He hands the message to the servant who takes it to SB.)

Sarvabhauma: Oh no! The king of Orissa is threatening to become a mendicant if Lord Caitanya does not see him!

Narrator: Sarvabhauma took the letter to the devotees of the Lord and told them of the King's desire to see Lord Caitanya and gets His mercy. Everyone was astounded to hear of Maharaj Prataparuda's great devotion to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Advaita: The Lord will never agree to meet with a King. To request such a meeting might make Him very unhappy.

Sarvabhauma: I have an idea. Let us go and see Lord Caitanya but rather than ask Him to meet the King again, we shall simply describe the King's good behavior.

Devotee: Yes, that is a good idea. Let us all go to the residence of Lord Caitanya.
(All exit.)

Narrator: So, the devotees went to Lord Caitanya but, once there however, no one dared utter one word. When Lord Caitanya understood that the devotees were again requesting Him to meet with King Prataparuda, He was very happy, within Himself, to hear of the devotion of King Prataparuda but, externally He pretended to be displeased.

Caitanya: I am a sannyasi and people would make fun of me if I met with a worldly man like this king.

Nityananda: I have an idea! It might not be necessary for You to meet with the king, immediately. If you kindly send one of your garments to King

Prataparuda, it would be a sign that he could live in hope of seeing you sometime in the future.

Caitanya: Whatever you, My devotees, decide to do, I shall accept.

All: Jai! Jai! Hari bol Hari bol!!
(all exit)

Narrator: When King Prataparuda received the Lord's cloth, he felt great ecstasy and worshipped the cloth as if it were Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu Himself.

King Prataparuda Had a minister named Ramananda Roy who had a deep love for both the king and Lord Caitanya. King Prataparuda gave RR permission to leave his government work and go to stay with Lord Caitanya and serve Him.

King: Ramananda Roy, go to Lord Caitanya and, as often as possible, send me news of His activities. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu will surely be merciful to you. Therefore, I beg you to ask Lord Caitanya to meet with me.

Ramananda My dear king, I give you my promise.

Narrator: Ramananda Roy did as he promised and whenever he had a chance he would inform Lord Caitanya of how much love the King had for Him.
(Lord Caitanya enters.)

Ramananda My dear Lord Caitanya, I have spoken to you may times of King Prataparuda's love for You and I know Your mind has be softened towards him. Will you please show Your lotus feet to him, at least once?

Caitanya: My dear Ramananda Roy, for a sannyasi to meet with a king is not proper. Just as a spot of black ink on a pure white cloth, so small a fault in a sannyasi is seen by everyone. They will talk and gossip about him at every chance.

Ramananda: But, my Lord, You have given audience to and saved so many sinful people! And this king is Your devotee and a servant of Lord Krsna!

Caitanya: What you say is true, but still I cannot agree to meet him. But, as you are so eager for me to meet the king, I will agree to meet with his son. The son represents the father and his meeting with Me would be just as good as the king's meeting with me.

Ramananda: Thank you, my Lord, you are so merciful!
(Both exit)

Scene Two - The Palace

(Ramananda Roy and King Prataparuda enter.)

Ramananda Lord Caitanya has agreed to meet with your son. Isn't this wonderful news?! I came directly here as soon as I could to tell you.

(King Prataparuda is very happy. He claps his hands and a servant enters.)
Go and call my son. Tell him I wish to speak to him at once!
(The servant leaves. The son enters.)
Ahhh, my son! Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Who is Krsna Himself has agreed to see you on my behalf! Today you will achieve the perfection of your life. Go and bathe, dress in yellow cloth and decorate yourself with ornaments. You can go back to Lord Caitanya's ashram with Ramananda Roy.

Prince: Yes, Father. I am so happy, thank you. I will dress with care and return soon.
(All exit.)

Scene Three - Lord Caitanya's Ashram

Narrator: The Prince's dark complexion combined with his bodily features, yellow dhoti and ornaments reminded Lord Caitanya of His beloved Lord Krsna.
(Lord Caitanya, Lord Nityananda, and Advaita Acarya are on stage as Ramananda Roy and the prince enter.)

Caitanya: Here is a great devotee. Seeing him everyone can remember the Supreme Personality of Godhead. I am much obliged to the king for sending this boy.
(Lord Caitanya embraces the prince.)

Prince: Krsna! Krsna!
(The prince dances with joy.)

Devotee: This prince is so fortunate!

Sarvabhauma: Yes indeed! He has received the special mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Caitanya: Be calm now and return to your father. But, I order you to come here daily to visit me.

Prince: Oh yes, my Lord! You are so compassionate!
(All exit)

Narrator: So, Ramananda Roy took the Prince back to his father and described all that had happened. The king's happiness knew no bounds and he embraced his son with as much happiness as if the boy were Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu Himself! From that day on, the prince was counted as one of the Lord's most intimate devotees.
Many days passed and soon it was time for the Rathayatra Festival of Lord Jagannath.

Advaita: How merciful is Lord Jagannath that He allows everyone to have His darshan!

Sarvabhauma: So many of His devotees are gathered here today!

Devotee: Look! Here is Lord Jagannath! I see His chariot coming down the road!

Advaita: Is that not King Prataparuda before the cart? What is he doing?

Sarvabhauma: King Prataparuda himelf has taken up a broom to sweep the road

where Lord Jagannath's cart will go!

Devotee: Yes, just see, it is a broom with a golden handle!

Nityananda: Even though he is the owner of a royal throne, he is sprinkling the road with sandalwood scented water and performing menial service for the pleasure of Lord Jagannath!

Caitanya: This makes Me very happy, indeed! Come, let us chant and dance and have kirtan to glorify Lord Jagannath!!

Narrator: Lord Caitanya danced and danced for the pleasure of Lord Jagannath. Sometimes Lord Jagannath stopped His cart and would not move because He was so entranced by watching Lord Caitanya's dancing! Lord Caitanya also displayed His mystic potency by appearing in seven different kirtan parties at once. He showed special favor to King Prataparuda by allowing the king and Sarvabhauma to be the only two people who were able to see this.

The dancing of Lord Caitanya so astonished King Prataparuda that he could only stand still and watch, filled with ecstatic love of Krsna. Finally, the procession reached a village where everyone came out to offer prasadam to Lord Jagannath.

Devotee: Come, Lord Caitanya, here is a peaceful and cool garden where You and Your devotees may rest and refresh Yourselves.

All: Jai! Jai!

Nityananda: Here is a nice flat place for you to lay on my Lord.
(The devotees rest. Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya and Prataparuda enter. King Prataparuda has changed his clothes and now wears a simple white dhoti and chaddar.)

Sarvabhauma: Now you are dressed like a simple Vaisnava, it will be possible for you to approach Lord Caitanya and receive His full mercy. Go now while He is resting.

King: (approaches Lord Caitanya) *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*
I will massage the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Thus, I can offer Him some personal service. This is my great good fortune!
(He sings about Krsna while he gently massages the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya.)
Jaya Radha Madhava Kunja Bihari
Gopijnana Vallabha Giridhanadari
Yasoda Nandana Brajajnana Rajana
Yamuna Tira Vanachari

Caitanya: Oh, you are glorifying Radha and Krsna so sweetly! Please go on singing!

King: Jaya Radha ...
(Lord Caitanya emraces King Prataparuda.)

Caitanya: You have given me great happiness but I have nothing to give you in return. Therefore, I can only embrace you!
(Lord Caitanya embraces King Prataparuda again and again and also chants Jaya Radha Madhava.)

You have done so much for Me. You have appeared unexpectedly and sang to Me about Krsna's nectarean pastimes! Who are you?

King: My Lord, I am the most obedient servant of Your servants and it is my only hope that you will accept me as such.

(King Prataparuda offers obeisances to Lord Caitanya and leaves.)

Narrator: Although Lord Caitanya knew within His heart that He was talking to King Prataparuda, He did not disclose it. And so, King Prataparuda, having achieved the goal of his life then offered a huge feast to Lord Caitanya and all of His devotees. Each of them had ten plates and ate until he was filled up to the neck! Since the time of King Prataparuda to the present day, it has become the custom for the king of Orissa to sweep road on the occasion of Lord Jagannath's Rathayatra Festival. Lord Jagannath's Rathayatra festival ki jai!

(Kirtan)

Nocturnal Kirtans at the Ashram of Srivasa Thakura

SCENE ONE

(The devotees are assembled outside awaiting the arrival of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Lord Nityananda. Their mood is one of eager anticipation. Srivasa Thakur is especially anxious and he is busy making last minute arrangements.)

Srivasa: (to one of the devotees) So, are you absolutely sure that there will be sufficient prasad for all the prabhus? The cooking is completed and everything is in readiness?

Devotee: Yes, yes, prabhu, everything has been taken care of! The kirtana hall has been washed thoroughly with water, the Lord's seat and garland are ready and the cooked preparations are completely first class! Don't worry about anything!(pointing) Look! Here is Advaita Acarya!

(All of the devotees offer their obeisances as Advaita Acharya enters.)

Srivasa:: (embraces Advaita Acharya) Jai Prabhu, welcome to my humble home, everything is now auspicious by your presence. We are just expecting Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu at any moment.

Advaita: My dear Srivasa:, I accept your house as good as the spiritual world because the Lord Himself comes here every evening for kirtan. We all know that it is only on the strength of your devotion.

Srivasa:: Actually, I have no devotion, but it is only the causeless mercy of the Lord that brings Him here. He is the independent Personality of Godhead. Everything has become so wonderful since He has returned from Gaya

after taking His initiation.

Advaita:Yes, Srivasa Thakura, the change in Him is most astonishing. Before this, He was posing as a quarrelsome and puffed-up scholar, always arguing with us and challenging our Vaisnava philosophy. But now, He has revealed himself as the foremost devotee, the Personality of Godhead Himself. If God Himself comes as a devotee, who can be a greater devotee than He?

All: Jaya, jaya Sri Caitanya! Jaya Nityananda! Hari bol!! (All the devotees throw themselves to the ground,offering obeisances at the lotus feet of the two Brothers.)

Caitanya: (raising His arms) Hari Bol! Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

All: Hari Bol! (Srivasa:a garlands Lord Caitanya and Nityananda.)

Caitanya: Jai! Jai Sri Krsna! Let us all go inside immediately and begin the kirtan performance. Some of you make sure that these doors are locked so that the nonbelievers cannot enter to spoil the devotional mood of our chanting.
(Everyone leaves. Kirtan starts offstage.)

SCENE TWO Outside the Home of Srivasa Thakura

(A roaring kirtan tape plays. A Smarta Brahman comes, listens intensely at the door, he tries the door but it is locked. He feels very frustrated. Another Smarta Brahman comes along.)

2nd Smarta:Good evening, my friend! What's going on here, anyway?

1st Smarta: Ahhh (disgusted) it is nothing! It's just some fanatics having their crazy chanting and dancing behind closed doors.

2nd Smarta: Yes, so I've heard. Every night, they come here to the house of Srivasa Thakura and perform their secret rituals. They are all low class men, so coarse and rude that they never even invite us Brahmanas. It's disgusting! I wonder what they are doing in there!
(He tries to peek through a crack in the door.)

1st Smarta: It's useless! They've hung some kind of curtain on the door. From the sounds of it, they're chanting and dancing like madmen. (sarcastic) They're probably throwing themselves on the floor in fits of spiritual "ecstasy," jumping up, spinning and carrying on in all sorts of crazy ways! I wouldn't even stay here for a moment, but I would like to see what they do in there for once! (He peeks again.)

2nd Smarta: I know what you mean, but they always lock the doors on us! I too am practically burning from this insult to respectable brahmins! (He lowers his voice to speak confidentially.) And guess what? A few days ago, someone finally did something about it!

1st Smarta: Why, what do you mean?!

2nd Smarta: One local Brahman, our friend, (laughing)! Late the other night, Monday, to exact, he put all of the articles used in the worship of Mother Durga right here in front of the door of Srivasa's house, just to embarrass him! After all, these so-called devotees can't be accepted as being on the same level with high grade brahmanas like you and me! They are more on the level of Durga Worshippers. (both laugh) So, just to show everyone the real character of Srivasa Thakura, he put the upper portion of a plantain leaf here, at his door, and placed turmeric, vermilion red sandalwood and rice on it. Then he purchased a pot of wine and put it next to that, (They both laugh.) just as if Srivasa Thakura were really worshipping the goddess Durga there! (both laugh hysterically) I wanted to congratulate Gopala Chapala since I heard about it, but he doesn't seem to be around. (He laughs but the 1st Smarta seems to have become somber about something.)

1st Smarta: You mean you haven't heard? About Gopala Chapala, I mean?

2nd Smarta: No, has something happened?

1st Smarta: Yes, I'm sorry to tell you that Gopala Chapala has now had to leave the village. He is sitting down on the bank of the Ganges. He has leprosy.

2nd Smarta:(greatly shocked) No! How terrible! When did this happen?

1st Smarta:The disease attacked him on Thursday. His whole body is now covered with bloody sores and germs and insects are biting him everywhere! His entire body is burning in distress! (thinking) Hmmmm, you know it's funny ...

2nd Smarta: Funny!?! What's so funny about leprosy?!!

1st Smarta:No, No, I mean it's just peculiar that the disease came just three days after he placed the Durga Puja articles here and tried to embarrass Srivasa Thakura.

2nd Smarta:(surprised) Why, do you think that there could be a connection between these two occurrences?

1st Smarta: Well, there are those who say these devotees are all great saints.
(Both of them become a little stunned and glance again and again at the door in wonderment.)

2nd Smarta: Well, I for one am not going to stand here all night. I have better things to do. Whatever's going on here, I don't think we should take the matter into our own hands, the way Gopala Chapala did. Bleeding sores ... leprosy? (recovers his composure) This is a matter for the Kazi, the town magistrate; I shall go to him and personally present the facts as they are! Good evening!

(2nd Smarta leaves and the 1st Smarta stands for a moment more, looking at the locked door, tries one more peek through the crack, then leaves, shaking his head.)

SCENE THREE- Inside the House of Srivasa Thakura

Caitanya: Jai! Jai Sri Krsna! Stop the kirtan! By the Lord's grace, that was a wonderful kirtan!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

Caitanya: However, the atmosphere does not seem right, somehow. It is as if a non-believer were present tonight.

(The devotees look about. Srivasa Thakura is especially concerned. Soon, Srivasa Thakura finds his mother-in-law hiding under a table.)

Srivasa:: Mataji! I told you that this kirtan was very private!

Mataji: I'm not hurting anything. I just wanted to see for myself what all the fuss was about!

Srivasa:: Nevertheless, you must go to your own home now.

(He sees her out.) I'm sorry, Lord Caitanya! My wife's mother was just curious. It won't happen again.

Caitanya: That is alright. We will take a short break and have a meeting. Now that many devotees have come from all over the country to join our party here in Navadwip, we have is not enough. We should never be content just to enjoy the ecstasy of devotional service ourselves, but should try as far as possible to spread it to all of the suffering souls. So, now I am making a new program. First of all, my two chief whips are Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakur.

(He places His hands affectionately on them.)

So, I am asking You both to go from door to door, from house to house, and humbly beg every man you meet to chant the Holy Names of Krsna.

All: Hari Bol! Jai Sri Krsna!

Caitanya: Every evening you should return to Me and tell Me about the day's preaching activities. What's more, I now want all of the devotees to take the chanting of the Holy Names out into the streets and market places. We have kept this nectar to ourselves long enough, now we must distribute it to everyone, and force them to drink this delicious nectar of the Holy Names!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

Caitanya: Now, more kirtan! Hari! Jai Sri Krsna! Hari Bol!

(Lights out, music, change scenery)

SCENE FOUR

Narrator: (over kirtan . Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu are dancing.)Another time, just after Lord Caitanya converted the Muslim magistrate, Chand Kazi, the two brothers were dancing in the house of Srivasa Thakura when a calamity took place. Srivasa Thakura's son died. Yet Srivasa Thakura was so patient that he did not allow anyone to express sorrow by crying because he did not want the kirtan to be disturbed. But, when the kirtan was over, Sri Caitanya, who could understand the situation declared:

Caitanya: There must have been some calamity in this house.

Devotee: Oh, Sri Caitanya, the son of Srivasa Thakura, who has been suffering from a disease, has passed away tonight.

Caitanya: Why was I not informed earlier? Take me to where the son's body lies.

Devotee:He is this way, Lord. (They approach a bed to the side.)

Caitanya: My dear boy, why are you leaving the house of Srivasa Thakur?

Son: I was living in this house as long as I was destined to live here. Now that the time is over, I am going elsewhere, according to Your direction. I am Your eternal servant, a dependant living being. I must act only according to Your desire. Beyond Your desire, I cannot do anything. I have no such power.

Caitanya: Srivasa:, You have lost one son, but Nityananda and I are your eternal Sons. We shall never be able to give up your company.

Narrator: This is an instance of a transcendental loving relationship with Krsna. We have eternal transcendental relationships with Krsna as His servants, friends, fathers, sons or conjugal lovers. When the same relationships are reflected in the material world, we have relationships as the sons, fathers, friends, lovers, masters or servants of others, but all these relationships are subject to termination within a short period. If we revive our Krsna Consciousness our eternal relationships will never break to cause us lamentation. Thereafter, the Lord charitably bestowed His benediction upon all His devotees. He gave the remnants of His food to Srivasa Thakura's niece, Narayani, showing her special respect. She later became the mother of Sri Vrndavana dasa Thakur who wrote the Sri Caitanya Bhagavat.

Caitanya: Go on chanting! Chant! Dance!
(An ecstatic kirtan is performed. After some time He addresses Srivasa Thakura in ecstasy.)
Srivasa:, please deliver to Me My flute!

Srivasa:: (over kirtan) Your flute has been stolen away by the gopis!

Caitanya: Go on talking! Go on talking!

Narrator: To increase the ecstasy of Sri Caitanya, Srivasa Thakura described the transcendental mellow pastimes of Sri Vrindavan to Sri Caitanya. Srivasa Thakura went on to extensively explain how the gopis were attracted to the forests of Vrndavana by the vibration of Krsna's flute and how they wandered together in the forest. He narrated all the pastimes enacted during the six changing seasons. He described the drinking of honey, the celebration of the rasa dance, the swimming in the Yamuna and other such incidents. As thus the Lord requested and Srivasa:a Thakura spoke, the morning appeared and the Lord embraced Srivasa Thakura and satisfied him. Thus, Sri Caitanya chanted and danced every night in the home of Srivasa Thakura's for one year.

(Music)

SCENE FIVE Gopala Chapala Takes Shelter of Sri Caitanya

(Music)

Narrator: Since leprosy is an infectious disease, Gopala Chapala left the village to sit down on the bank of the Ganges underneath a tree. Incessantly covered with germs, with insects biting him all over his body, Gopala Chapala felt unbearable pain. His entire body burned in distress. One day, however, he saw Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu passing by and spoke to Him as follows.

Gopala: My dear nephew, I am Your maternal uncle in our village relationship. Please see how greatly this attack of leprosy has afflicted me! As an incarnation of God, You are delivering so many fallen souls. I am also a greatly unhappy fallen soul. Kindly deliver me by Your mercy.

Caitanya: (appearing to be angry) O sinful person, envious of pure devotees, I shall not deliver you! Rather, I will have you bitten by these germs for many millions of years! You have made Srivasa Thakura appear to have been worshipping the goddess Bhavani. Simply for this offense, you will have to fall down into hellish life for ten million births.

I have appeared in this incarnation to kill the demons and, after killing them, to preach the cult of devotional service. You have committed an offense at the lotus feet of Srivasa Thakura. First, you must go there and beg for his mercy, and then if he gives you his blessing and you do not commit such sins again, you will be delivered.

Narrator: Then, the brahmana, Gopala Chapala, went to Srivasa Thakura and took shelter of his lotus feet and by Srivasa Thakura's mercy he was freed from all sinful reactions. The End

The following is an outline for a drama about Lord Chaitanya's pastimes, handwritten by Srila Prabhupada for a production in 1967. It was reprinted by the BBT in the *Vyasa-Puja Book,* 1983, and is presented herein as a reference for future dramatizations. NOTE: Please refer also to Srila Prabhupada's extensive conversation with Hayagriva Prabhu about this play, recorded in San Francisco, April 5-6, 1967

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LORD CHAITANYA

A Five Act Drama in English

Direction
Swami A.C. Bhaktivedanta

Playwright
Hayagriva Das Brahmachari
(Howard Wheeler)

Sponsored by the members of
International Society For Krishna Consciousness, Inc.
New York, San Francisco, & Montreal
1967

* * * * *

CHARACTERS:

Lord Sri Krishna
Srimati Radharani
Damsels of Vrindavan
Lord Chaitanya
Lord Nityananda
Sri Advaita
Sri Gadadhar
Srinivas
Haridas
Mukunda

Murari Gupta
Jagannath Mishra
Shachi Devi
Sarvabhauma
Gopinathacharya

Ramananda
Rupa Goswami
Sanatan Goswami
Prakashananda
Bhaktisiddhanta
Bhaktivedanta

FIRST ACT

First Scene
Great procession of Sankirtan
All chanting Hare Krishna

Second Scene
Assembly of Kali and his consort Sin
Exhibition of Illicit Sex, Slaughter House, Intoxication & Gambling

Third Scene
Rasa-dance of Lord Krishna and His associates
Lord Krishna's determination

Fourth Scene
Lunar eclipse, everyone taking bath in
the Ganges and chanting Hare Krishna

Fifth Scene
Lord Chaitanya's birth, visits and presentation
Chanting Hare Krishna

Sixth Scene
Lord Chaitanya, a naughty boy

SECOND ACT

First Scene
Lord Chaitanya's Sankirtan organization

Second Scene
Brahmana's dissatisfaction, complaint to Magistrate

Third Scene
Lord Chaitanya's civil-disobedience by Sankirtan

Fourth Scene
Meeting Lord Chaitanya & Chand Kazi

Fifth Scene

His renunciation of household life

Sixth Scene
Separation of the mother and the Son

THIRD ACT

First Scene
Lord Chaitanya visits Khira-chora Gopinath Temple

Second Scene
Lord Chaitanya visits Sakshi Gopal Temple

Third Scene
Lord Chaitanya visits Jagannath Temple

Fourth Scene
Lord Chaitanya meets Sarvabhauma

FOURTH ACT

First Scene
Lord Chaitanya meets Ramananda Ray

Second Scene
Lord Chaitanya meets Rupa Goswami

Third Scene
Lord meets Sanatan Goswami

Fourth Scene
Lord meets Prakashananda Saraswati

Fifth Scene
Lord meets Haridas at his death

FIFTH ACT

First Scene
Lord Chaitanya in Ecstasy

Second Scene
Lord Chaitanya on the sea-shore

Third Scene
Lord Chaitanya enters the Jagannath Temple

Caitanya and Nityananda Benedict the Sahajiiya
From the Sri Caitanya Bhagavata

Narrator: Once, Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda were walking to Sri Advaita Acarya's house in Santipur. While walking through the village of Lalitapur, they saw a small house on the banks of the Ganga.
(Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda, arm around each other, joyfully chanting Hare Krsna.)

Both:*Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare HareHare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Caitanya: Whose house is this?

Nityananda: It appears to be a sannyasi's ashram!

Caitanya: If we are fortunate, We may be able to get his association.
(The elderly "sannyasi" comes out and Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda offer obeisances to him.)

Sahajiiya: O beautiful Brahmana boys, may you have wealth, fame, a good marriage and great learning!

Caitanya: (puzzled) A true Sannyasi does not give a blessing like that! A true sannyasi will say, " May you attain Lord Krsna's Mercy!" Material qualities are of no consequence. Devotion to Lord Visnu is the true blessing. It is eternal and can never be lost. That blessing, a true sannyasi will give. What you said is not right.

Sahajiiya: (to himself, laughing) Today, I have found the proof of what I have only heard of before - "A person who speaks sweet words will find himself beaten with sticks." This Brahmana's son acts like that. I cheerfully blessed him that he will become wealthy - what has happened to the good deed I just did? What fault is there on my part?

Listen, Brahman Boy, why do You criticize my blessing? If a person born in this world does not enjoy pastimes with beautiful, amorous women and does not have any wealth, then what is he doing with his life? I give you the blessing to become wealthy and You only become embarrassed to receive it! You may be a devotee of Visnu, but how do You maintain Your body without money? Hmm? Tell me that.

Caitanya: (Laughs and places His hand on His forehead) Please listen. Listen, O Sanyassi Goswami, it is because of his past karma that a living being eats food and encounters various moods of devotional service. If the purpose of life is to enjoy, then please tell me - why are wealth and family always taken away at death? O Goswami, please consider what is good and bad. Nothing is better than devotional service to Lord Krsna.

Sahajiiya: (to himself) Ha! I think that this Brahmana must be crazy! The time has come - standing before a child, it is evident that I know nothing! I who have traveled all over the earth! I have traveled to Ayodhya, Mathura, Badarikasrama. Guruvata, Varanasi, Gaya, Vijayanagari, Hardwar, Simhala and all the important cities where the devout gather around the Diety forms of the Supreme. But, I do not know is right and what is wrong. What I am saying is wrong. Now, a boy still drinking His mother's milk must give me instruction.

Nityananda: Listen, Goswami, you should not argue with a Child. I know how glorious you really are. Please glance upon us with favor and forgive everything.

Sahajiiya: (smiling) Now, you have pleased me. Please come over here and sit down. My wife has prepared a meal.
(Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda look at each, surprised that this "sanyassi" has a wife.)

Nityananda: We must hurry on. We have urgent business further on. Please give us some simple fruits and vegetables. Later today, after bathing, we will stop on the path and eat.

Sahajiiya: Bathe here, eat something, rest and then go. That is my request.
(Wife brings plates of opulent foodstuffs. Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda sit down and begin to honor prasadam.)

Sahajiiya: Listen, boys, I have something I think you'll like. Where will I find guests like you? Shall I bring some "bliss."

Caitanya: Oh, no thank you. You have been too kind, already.

Sahajiiya: It is no trouble! Shall I bring some "bliss?" You must have some "bliss" with such a fine meal!

Wife: Why do interrupt their eating?

Sahajiiya: Okay, I'll just go get it; You can take it as you like.
(He leaves.)

Caitanya: (to Lord Nityananda) What is this "bliss" the man talks about?

Nityananda: He must mean wine.

Caitanya: (shocked) Visnu! Visnu!
(Lord Caitanya suddenly runs from the room. Lord Nityananda follows.)

Nityananda: Sri Caitanya! I am coming! Wait for Me!

Narrator: Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda jumped into the Ganges River that can take away all karmic reaction. This story from the Caitanya Bhagavata, Madhya-khanda, Volume 2 Chapter 19 illustrates the mercy of Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda, because the Lords were

merciful even to a debauchee who drank wine and enjoyed the company of women. Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda conversed with him, taught him and accepted the meal he offered. In that birth, the "sanyassi" did not become saintly, but in another birth he will. All Glories to Sri Krsna Caitanya Mahaprabhu! All Glories to Sri Nityananda Mahaprabhu!

(Bhajan)

Lord Caitanya and the Buddhists

Scene One

(On the far side of stage, the Buddhists are talking amongst themselves.)

Brahmana: Mahaprabhu, Your having defeated the Buddhist leader has put them to shame. With Your logic, You broke their philosophy to pieces. Now, I am afraid that they will try to harm You in some way.

Caitanya: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

1st Buddhist: Somehow or other, we must degrade the position of this Vaisnava sanyassi.

2nd Buddhist: I know, I'll prepare a most contaminated plate of foodstuffs and we can offer this to Sri Krsna Caitanya.

3rd Buddhist: Yes! We can tell Him that it is Maha Prasada from the local Visnu temple! In this way, He will violate His vows and destroy His purity!

2nd Buddhist: And His smugness and peace of mind.

1st Buddhist: Yes, we will threaten to broadcast the tale of it all over Bengal!
(They leave and re-enter carrying a large tray of foodstuffs. They approach Lord Caitanya and offer respects.)

1st Buddhist: O Learned One, please forgive us for our anger yesterday. Your conclusions, now that we have had time to consider them, are very much appreciated by us.

2nd Buddhist: Please accept this Maha prasadam.

3rd Buddhist: (suspended wire swings the plate past the Buddhists to their guru) What is happening?! Oh no!! The contaminated plate has fallen on the head of our guru!!
(They kneel and cry over the fallen body of their guru.)

1st Buddhist: O Gurudev, we have again been foolish!

2nd Buddhist: (falling at the feet of Lord Caitanya) Please forgive our maliciousness! We have committed a great offense! Please have mercy upon us and bring our Spiritual Master back to life!

Caitanya: You should all chant the Holy Names of Krsna and Hari very loudly near the ear of your Spiritual Master and he will regain consciousness.

Buddhists: (loudly) *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*

Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Guru: (reviving) Hari Bol!
(They all offer respects to Lord Caitanya.)

Caitanya: Go on chanting! Go on chanting!
(They all leave, chanting Hare Krsna.)

Scene Two

(There are two or three brahmanas laughing and pointing at another brahmana who is sitting under a tree reading the Bhagavad Gita.)

Brahmana: Look at that foolish young man! He is pretending to read the Bhagavad Gita!

2nd Brahmana: He doesn't even know how to read! Just listen, he pronounces every word incorrectly! Ha!
(They all start to laugh again.)

Caitanya: (to His servant) Just see, this brahmana is exhibiting all the symptoms of one in ecstatic love of Krsna! Although these less intelligent persons are laughing and making jokes, he is happily absorbed in chanting eighteen chapters of the Bhagavad Gita every day. He is not at all affected by the opinion of others.
(to the Brahmana reading Bhagavad Gita) My dear sir, why are you in such ecstasy? Which portion of the Bhagavad Gita gives you such transcendental pleasure?

Young Man: Well, I am illiterate and therefore I do not know the meaning of the words. But, my Spiritual Master, has told me to read eighteen chapters of Bhagavad Gita everyday. So, what can I do? I have to follow the instructions of my Spiritual Master.

Caitanya: But you are not reading it, you are simply crying over it.

Young Man: I am simply thinking, "Krsna is so kind He is driving the chariot of His devotee. He is sitting there, looking so beautiful, talking to Arjuna as a friend. When I think of Krsna like that, I can't keep myself from crying. My Lord is so wonderful!

Caitanya: You are the real knower of Bhagavad Gita. You are actually understanding Bhagavad Gita as it is.
(Lord Caitanya goes to embrace the Brahmana and the Brahmana grabs the Lotus Feet of Lord Caitanya.)

Young Man: Upon seeing you, my happiness is doubled! I realize that You the same Lord Krsna!

Caitanya: Because you are so pure in your love of Krsna, I will teach you very thoroughly the science of Krsna Bhakti but you must not reveal the secret

of my identity to anyone.

(Bhajan)

LORD CHAITANYA BIDS FAREWELL TO THE BENGAL DEVOTEES

from *Sri Chaitanya-Charitamrita, Madhya-lila* Chapter 15

* * * * *

CAST: Lord Chaitanya, Satyaraja Khan, Vasudeva Datta, Various Devotees.

(Lord Chaitanya and his devotees explode upon the stage and the *kirtan* builds up to an ecstatic climax and then ends. Lord Chaitanya sits surrounded by the devotees and speaks movingly:)

Lord Chaitanya: My dear devotees, to see all of you before Me is the pleasure of My life, so how can My heart bear it now that all of you must return to Bengal? Please return here every year to see Me. Advaita Acharya, I consider you to be My spiritual master. Please give love of Krishna to all, even the lowest of men. And My dear Nityananda, you should spread devotional service throughout Bengal. Take with you Ramadas and Gadadhara, and sometimes I will also come to see your dancing, which purifies the three worlds.

O Srivasa, when you perform *sankirtan* in your house, know for certain that I am present there. Please take *prasada* from Lord Jagannath to my mother...

My dear Raghava Pandit. I am obliged to you, due to your pure love for Me. Everyone please hear of the pure devotion of Raghava Pandit. Every day, he prepares the finest fruits with great care and attention, and offers them to the Deity along with cakes, sweet rice and all the finest foods and paraphernalia. Everyone is satisfied by his service...

All you inhabitants of Kulina-grama must come to Me every year and bring silken rope to carry Lord Jagannath.

Satyaraja Khan: O Lord, I am a materialistic man, entangled in household life. What is my duty?

Lord Chaitanya: Always chant the Holy Name of Krishna, and try to serve Him and His devotees, the Vaishnavas.

Satyaraja Khan: My Lord, how can one recognize a Vaishnava? What are his common symptoms?

Lord Chaitanya: Anyone who chants the Holy Name even once is considered to

be worshipable, for by so doing all his previous sinful activities are nullified. There are no barriers in this chanting, and anyone can worship the Lord in this way and become purified, even the lowest of men. This chanting awakens one's dormant love for Krishna. Therefore anyone who is chanting the Holy Name of the Lord is understood to be a Vaishnava and worthy of one's worship.

Ah, Vasudeva Datta, what can I say about your pure love for Sri Govinda? Your love for Krishna is so strong that it can illuminate the darkness hearts of all the fallen souls. **(Vasudeva Datta becomes embarrassed and touches the Lord's lotus feet)**

Vasudeva Datta: My dear Lord, You appear just to deliver all the conditioned souls. As you are the Supreme independent Lord, I have one petition to make before You: O Lord, my heart breaks to see the sufferings of the entangled living entities, therefore I request you to transfer the *karma* of their sinful lives upon my head. O Lord, let me always remain in a hellish condition, but please let their sufferings finish. **(Sri Chaitanya is overwhelmed)**

Lord Chaitanya: Such a statement is not astonishing, for you are actually Prahlada Maharaja, and Krishna has bestowed all mercy upon you! Whatever you desire, Krishna will give, there is no need for you to suffer! My dear Vasudeva Datta, the purity of your love is unmatched, and because of that love all living beings in the universe will certainly be liberated!

Now, My dear devotees, you must return to Bengal, but do not think that I will be separated from you, for wherever the Holy Name of Sri Hari is chanted by His devotees, certainly I am present. Come now... take heart! Let there be *kirtan!* **(A very slow and ecstatic *kirtan* begins and all the devotees of Lord Chaitanya dance)**

The End

LORD CHAITANYA LIBERATES THE DOG

from *Sri Chaitanya-Charitamrita, Antya-lila,* Chapter 1
adapted by Dasarath Suta Das

SCENE ONE

CAST: Narrator, Shivananda Sena, Dog, Boatman, Devotees, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

Narrator: When Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu returned to Jagannath Puri after His tour of Vrindavan, Swarupa Damodara Goswami immediately sent news of the Lord's arrival to the devotees in Navadvipa, West Bengal. Upon hearing this news, mother Shachi and all the other devotees of Navadvipa were very joyful, and they departed together for the long trip on foot to Nilachala (Jagannath Puri). Thus all the devotees of Kulina-gram and Sri Khanda, as well as Advaita Acharya, came together to meet Shivananda Sena. Shivananda Sena arranged for the journey. He maintained everyone and provided residential quarters. While going to Jagannath Puri, Shivananda Sena allowed a dog to go along with them. He supplied it food to eat and maintained it. One day, when they needed to cross a river, an Orissan boatman would not allow the dog to get in the boat.

Boatman: Hey, wait a minute here! Your party is welcome to come in my boat, but that street dog has to stay behind!

Shivananda: This dog is traveling along with us. He must come across the river in your boat, for I cannot leave him behind.

Boatman: I'm sorry, sir, this is my boat and I'm not allowing any filthy dog on board!

Shivananda: I will gladly pay extra for the dog's passage. Here is one *pana* (80 pieces) of conchshells for you to let him come along.

Boatman: No, no, I cannot compromise on my principles. No dogs aboard my boat!

Shivananda: Then please take these ten *pana* (800 pieces) of conchshells to take the dog across the river.

Boatman: Oh well, maybe just this once I will be happy to oblige you! Thank you very much, sir everyone watch your step as you come aboard!

(all exit)

Narrator: One day while Shivananda was detained by a tollman, his servant forgot to give the dog its usual portion of cooked rice. At night, when Shivananda Sena returned and was taking his meal, he inquired from the servant whether the dog had gotten its meal.

Shivananda: Ah, this Krishna-*prasadam* is very nice! Tell me, while I was gone did you feed the dog as usual?

Devotee: Oh, the dog! I completely forgot about feeding him!

Shivananda: What?! How could you forget? That dog is a devotee, too, as well as our friend! Oh, this is terrible! Where is the dog right now?

Devotee: I don't know, I haven't seen him for quite a while.

Shivananda: Oh no, this is a grave offense we have committed unto a devotee! This makes me very unhappy. We've got to find the dog right away. Let's organize a search party. Everyone! Come over here! You ten men, immediately spread out and try to find the dog.

Devotee: **(they search and then return)** We're sorry, Shivananda Prabhu, we looked everywhere but could find no trace of the dog.

Shivananda: This makes me very unhappy. Now I shall fast for the night. If I could not feed even the humblest member of our party, why then should I personally enjoy eating a meal? Let us take rest now. **(Devotees rest as lights fade and Narrator speaks)**

Narrator: Shivananda Sena's attachment to the dog was a great boon for that animal. The dog appears to have been a street dog. Since it naturally began to follow Shivananda Sena while he was going to Jagannath Puri with his party, he accepted it into his party and maintained it the same way he was maintaining the other devotees. It appears that although on one occasion the dog was not allowed aboard a boat, Shivananda did not leave the dog behind but paid more money just to induce the boatman to take the dog across the river. Then when the servant forgot to feed the dog and the dog disappeared, Shivananda, being very anxious, sent ten men to find it. When they could not find it, Shivananda observed a fast. Thus it appears that somehow or other Shivananda had become attached to the dog.

SCENE TWO

Narrator: In the morning everyone again looked for the dog, but it could not be found anywhere. Thus in great anxiety they all walked onwards to Jagannath Puri, where Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu met them as usual. When all the devotees came to the place of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, they saw the same dog, sitting a little apart from the Lord. All the Vaishnavas were astonished.

Devotee: Shivananda, look! There's the dog sitting near the Lord! It appears that the dog went ahead of us and arrived in Puri first.

Shivananda: Behold Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, smiling in His own way and throwing remnants of green coconut pulp to the dog!

Lord Chaitanya: Chant the holy names Rama, Krishna, and Hari!

Dog: *Rama! Krishna! Hari!*

Lord Chaitanya: Chant Krishna! Krishna!

Dog: *Krishna! Krishna!*

Devotee: This is amazing! We've never seen anything like it! The dog is eating the coconut pulp and chanting "Krishna, Krishna" again and again!

Shivananda: Seeing the dog sitting in that way and chanting the name of Krishna, I shall immediately offer my obeisances to the dog just to counteract my offenses to it. **(he bows down. Dog suddenly vanishes)**

Devotee: Where did the dog suddenly go? It was just here enjoying the *prasadam* remnants of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Did anybody see where it went?

Lord Chaitanya: That dog has obtained its spiritual body and departed for Vaikuntha, the spiritual kingdom. This is the result of *sadhu-sanga,* association with all of you great souls. By your mercy the dog was promoted back home, back to Godhead. Therefore, everyone in the human form of life should be induced to associate with devotees. By rendering a little service, even by eating *prasadam,* not to speak of chanting and dancing, everyone could be promoted to Vaikuntha-loka.

By your mercy, all the people of the world will be transferred to Vaikuntha-loka, even without their knowledge. Everyone should be given a chance to take *prasadam* and thus be induced to chant the holy names Hare Krishna and also dance in ecstasy. By these three processes, although performed without knowledge or education, even an animal went back to Godhead. **(everyone does soft *kirtan*)**

Narrator: Such are the transcendental pastimes of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the son of mother Shachi. He even delivered a dog simply by inducing it to chant the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra.* The dog got the mercy of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and was immediately promoted to Vaikuntha to become an eternal devotee. Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura has therefore sung in *Sharanagati,* song 19 – *tumi to' Thakura, tomara kukkura, boliya janaha more* – He thus offers to become the dog of a Vaishnava. There are many other instances in which the pet animal of a devotee was delivered back home to Vaikuntha-loka, back to Godhead. Such is the benefit of somehow or other becoming the favorite of a Vaishnava. We may conclude that even as dogs we must take shelter of a devotee. The benefit will be the same as that which accrues to an advanced devotee under a Vaishnava's care.

The End

THE AGE OF KALI AND THE APPEARANCE OF LORD CHAITANYA'S SANKIRTAN MOVEMENT

compiled by Radha-Damodara Das

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ACT ONE

SCENE ONE * Maharaja Yudhishthira Sees The Ill Omens For The Age Of Kali
SCENE TWO * Yudhishthira Entrusts His Kingdom to Maharaja Pariksit
SCENE THREE * How Pariksit Received The Age Of Kali

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE * Kali and His Consort Sin
SCENE TWO * Kali and Sin And The Six Enemies

ACT THREE

SCENE ONE * Lord Chaitanya Bids Farewell To His Devotees
SCENE TWO * The Vision Of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura

ACT FOUR

SCENE ONE * Srila Prabhupada Meets His Spiritual Master
SCENE TWO * Srila Prabhupada's Journey To America
SCENE THREE * Srila Prabhupada's Preaching In America
SCENE FOUR * Srila Prabhupada's Arrival

An Outline of the Play

The play begins with a narration and slide show describing how the ages run in cycles, just like seasons, starting with the Age of Truth, Satya-yuga, and gradually declining to the Age of Quarrel, Kali-yuga. With the appearance of Lord Krishna, just before the beginning of Kali-yuga, the whole Earth becomes auspicious as if it were Satya-yuga. Having completed His mission on this earth, the Lord went to Dwaraka, and at that time Maharaja Yudhishthira sent Arjuna to see Him. Weeks go by and still Arjuna does not return, thus Maharaja Yudhishthira becomes anxious and, seeing many ill omens, his anxiety increases.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

Maharaja Yudhishthira enters and begins to describe many ill omens as he witnesses them. His ultimate conclusion is that the Lord has disappeared from the planet and the world has again become inauspicious.

SCENE TWO

Maharaja Yudhishthira turns over his throne to Maharaja Pariksit and sets off for the Himalayas to fix himself in meditation on the Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna. (All as per *S.B.* 1st Canto).

SCENE THREE

Dialogue between Dharma (the bull) and Bhumi (the cow). The personified Kali enters and begins to beat them. Maharaja Pariksit comes in and, seeing this, prepares to kill Kali, but when Kali takes shelter of him, he gives Kali five places where he may reside.

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

Kali and his consort Sin discuss the many ways in which they are going to bewilder the living entities in this age (...this is my age, my Queen, now just begun / I'm allowed 400,000 years in which to have my fun...).

SCENE TWO

Then Sin invites each of the six enemies Lust, Anger, Greed, Illusion, Madness and Envy to describe their expert means for expanding Kali's empire. This contains excerpts from Girish Ghosh's play, *The Age of Kali,* which has been adapted by the devotees. As the last enemy is finishing his monologue, the sound of a *harinama-sankirtan* party is heard faintly in the distance, and the enemies all become fearful. Kali appears and tells Sin that it's all over, but Sin can't believe it and describes all her expert means of deception, but Kali shows how the devotees are using the six enemies in favor of devotional service; *i.e.,* turning Lust into love for God, making Anger and Envy join hands to fight those who decry the Lord, Greed becomes eagerness to attain the Lord's favor, etc. At last Kali and Sin alone are left, then suddenly Lord Chaitanya and His associates explode upon the scene as Kali and his consort flee in terror.

ACT THREE

SCENE ONE

Lord Chaitanya and the devotees chant and dance for a while, and the *kirtan* reaches a crescendo and finishes. Lord Chaitanya sits surrounded by His followers and begins to glorify them all, beginning with Advaita Acharya and Srila Nityananda Prabhu (as per the chapter in *C.C., Lord Gauranga Bids Farewell to the Bengali Devotees*). After praising the glories of Srivasa Thakura, Raghava Pandit and the inhabitants of Kulina-grama, Lord Chaitanya

stresses the importance of chanting and serving the devotees, in answer to a question from Satyaraja Khan. Then He describes the specific qualities of a Vaishnava. At last, the Lord comes to Vasudeva Datta, who petitions the Lord to put all the sinful reactions of all fallen souls on his own head, so that they can be delivered from their suffering. The Lord is overwhelmed by Vasudeva Datta's compassion, and He assures him that all living beings in the universe have already been saved simply by his desire. Lord Chaitanya then reveals that even though the devotees may appear to be leaving His association, He is always with them, for He is present wherever the Holy Name is chanted by the devotees. The *kirtan* begins again, very sweet this time.

SCENE TWO

As the chanting continues the attention comes to the front of the stage, where a spotlight is shining. Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura appears and begins to recite the English translation of *Arunodaya-kirtan:* "When the Eastern horizon became tinged with the redness that heralds the rising of the sun, the jewel among the *brahmanas,* Lord Gaurasundara, immediately awakened... etc." Thus it appears that the Lord and His devotees, whose chanting is very quiet, appear to be the meditation of Srila Bhaktivinoda. The monologue ends as follows, paraphrasing Lord Chaitanya: "I have brought the medicine for destroying the illusion of Maya. Now pray for this *harinama maha-mantra* and take it! Thakura Bhaktivinoda fell at the lotus feet of Lord Gauranga, and after begging for the Holy Name, he received that *maha-mantra."* Then Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura begins: "Oh for that day when the fortunate English, French... and American people will... raise *kirtan* through their towns. When will that day come?" He predicts the coming of a great *acharya* who will fulfill the mission of Lord Chaitanya.

ACT FOUR

SCENE ONE

A narration describes how Srila Bhaktivinoda's son, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, establishes a powerful preaching mission throughout India. Then the appearance of Srila Prabhupada, his childhood and youth are described. This scene begins with Narendranath urging Abhay Charan to visit this "nice *sadhu."* Abhay reluctantly agrees, and they come before Srila Bhaktisiddhanta, who preaches strongly to Abhay and urges him to spread Lord Chaitanya's message in the English language. The scene ends with Abhay telling Narendranath that he is deeply impressed and has accepted in his heart this very nice, saintly person, as his spiritual master.

SCENE TWO

There is a short narration describing Srila Prabhupada's preaching in India up to 1965, and how he finally sets off aboard the steamship Jaladuta towards America. The scene begins on the Jaladuta: Srila Prabhupada is sitting

behind his trunk, writing in his diary, and his voice is heard as he is writing: "Today the ship is plying smoothly. I feel today better. But I am feeling separation..." He goes on writing, describing his feeling of dependence on his *guru-maharaja* and Krishna. Then Captain and Mrs. Pandia enter, and they inquire from Srila Prabhupada about his health. Srila Prabhupada says: "If the Atlantic had shown its usual face, perhaps I would have died. But Lord Krishna has taken charge of the ship." There is a brief dialogue between them, then Srila Prabhupada sells them three volumes of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* and they exit. Srila Prabhupada then stands and walks to the front, as if to the rails of the ship, and peers out across the ocean to the grim skyline of Boston: "My dear Lord Krishna, You are so kind upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me..."

SCENE THREE

There is a detailed narration and slide show describing Srila Prabhupada's preaching in America, and his ultimate success in establishing Krishna Consciousness world-wide.

SCENE FOUR

The last scene is in Bhaktivedanta Manor in England, a few minutes before Srila Prabhupada arrival, with the devotees running panic-stricken to get everything ready for his arrival. Srila Prabhupada arrives!!! There is a Deity greeting and then Srila Prabhupada sits on his *vyasasana* and sings *Jaya-Radha-Madhava.* Then he begins to speak. This contains extracts from the very wonderful class he gave at the Manor on Vyasa-puja 1973, where Srila Prabhupada speaks very movingly about how actually, "I had wasted so much time before fulfilling the order of my spiritual master..." and he gives all credit to the devotees themselves. He mentions that a *grihastha* must be *paramahamsa.* At the end, he says that even after he has passed away, he is very much hopeful that this movement will continue to spread. It is a beautiful class and at the end he says: "Thank you very much, Hare Krishna!" The devotees then start a *kirtan* and Srila Prabhupada leaves.

End of Outline; Play Follows

LORD CHAITANYA'S SANKIRTAN MOVEMENT

compiled by Radha-Damodara Das

* * * * *

CAST: Narrator, Maharaja Yudhishthira, Arjuna, Pariksit, Guards, Bhumi (cow), Dharma (bull), Kali, Sin, Envy, Lust, Anger, Greed, Illusion, Madness, Lord Chaitanya, Satyaraja Khan, Vasudeva Datta, Bhaktivinoda Thakura, Devotee, Abhay / Srila Prabhupada, Narendranath, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, Captain and Mrs. Pandia, Devotees.

(Note: a slide show may accompany this lengthy introductory narration)

Narrator: We offer our respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is very dear to Lord Krishna, having taken shelter at His lotus feet. Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Prabhupada. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Chaitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

We offer our respectful obeisances unto all the Vaishnava devotees of the Lord, who can fulfill the desires of everyone, just like desire-trees, and are full of compassion for all the fallen, conditioned souls.

Bhaja Sri-Krishna-Chaitanya Prabhu Nityananda
Sri-Advaita Gadadhara Srivasadi-Gaura-bhakta-vrinda
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare

As nature turns through the four seasons — spring, summer, autumn, winter — so does the universe revolve through four cycles known as *yugas* or ages: Satya, Treta, Dvapara and Kali. Four such ages make one *kalpa,* and two thousand of such *kalpas* make one day and night for Lord Brahma, the universal engineer. From creation to destruction, this universe exists for one hundred of Lord Brahma's years, and all that time — which spans in our earth's time more than three hundred trillion years — is but one breath of Lord Maha-Vishnu, who lies upon the causal ocean in His mystic slumber. Like bubbles in a cosmic ocean, countless universes rise and are destroyed, as each time the blessed Lord breaths in... and out...

The golden age of Satya-yuga is free from vice, but as spring turns to summer, the Treta-yuga begins as tiny spots of sin and strife appear... though mostly truth and purity reign. Then, like autumn, Dvapara begins, and thus

virtue and religion decline still more, yet harmony and godly life is still the norm. Until, that is, the iron age of Kali spreads its dark and deadly shroud. Like a bleak and dreadful winter, this Kali is a dangerous age, for there is almost no virtue to be found in it mercy, truth, austerity and cleanliness are all but gone. When quarrel and hypocrisy rule, when leaders are but swindlers and fools... the age of darkness, Kali, is begun.

But, just before this stormy era came, the Lord Himself, Sri Krishna, appeared out of His causeless mercy upon all the fallen souls who rot in forgetfulness of Him. Thus, five thousand years ago, just as a sunny day often appears amidst the months of cold and rain, the Lord graced this earth with His presence, and all the while it was again like Satya-yuga, the golden age. To annihilate demonic kings, but especially to bless those pious followers of His, the Lord stayed for 125 years and also sang the divine scripture, *Bhagavad-Gita*, that chalked the path of light for all mankind, forevermore.

His mission done, the Lord retired to Dwaraka's mighty citadel, and at that time the pious king and emperor of all the world, Yudhishthira Maharaja by name, a pure devotee of the Lord, sent Arjuna, his younger brother, there for news of Krishna's activities. Thus Arjuna, that warrior of mighty arms, that soul surrendered to his Lord, that companion of the friend of everyone, left Hastinapur at once for Dwaraka, to fulfill his elder brother Yudhishthira's desire. But, as the weeks went by, and still Arjuna did not return, the emperor's mind began to fill with troubled thoughts...

ACT ONE
SCENE ONE

Maharaja Yudhishthira Sees The Ill Omens For The Age Of Kali

(It is evening time. The weather is very cold and miserable. Maharaja Yudhishthira enters in great anxiety)

Yudhishthira: The direction of eternal time has changed... and the seasons no longer follow their proper course! What is this fearful time? It is most astonishing! Recently I have noticed such a change in the people. Men and women who were once pious and God-fearing have now become filled with greed, pride and anger. Many of the citizens are adopting foul means of livelihood, and their dealings, even between friends, have become polluted with cheating. In family relationships, there is no harmony but only misunderstanding, and even between husband and wife there is always strain and quarrel.

Some time ago, I sent Arjuna to Dwaraka to get news about the Personality of Godhead, Lord Krishna, and His divine plans. But, seven long months have passed since then, and still he has not

returned; thus I am greatly perplexed to know how things are going on there...

The left side of my body, my thighs, arms and legs are all quivering again and again. I am having heart palpitations due to fear... all these omens indicate undesirable happenings. Just see! This pigeon is like a messenger of death! The shrieks of the owls and crows make my heart tremble... it seems they want to make a void of the whole universe! The earth and mountains are throbbing... Just hear the cloudless thunder and see the bolts from the blue!

The wind blows violently, blasting dust everywhere and creating darkness. Clouds rain blood! What is this extraordinary time? What is going to happen? The rays of the sun are declining, and the stars appear to be fighting amongst themselves... everything is in chaos! Confused living entities appear to be ablaze and weeping... and even the Deities seem to be crying and ready to leave the temples. The whole earth is devoid of happiness and beauty... I do not know what sort of calamities are awaiting us... I can only think that all these disturbances indicate some greater loss to the good fortune of the world...

(Arjuna enters, his feet dragging heavily. He bows down to Maharaja Yudhishthira and sits at his feet, his head down and tears gliding from his lotus eyes)

Yudhishthira: Arjuna! My dear brother, are you all right? How is everything at Dwaraka? Are all the members of the Yadu dynasty in good health? How is Lord Balarama? What about Lord Krishna? O my brother, what is wrong? Why are you so grief-stricken?

Arjuna: (very slowly and emotionally) O king! The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna, who treated me exactly like an intimate friend, has left me alone... I have just lost Him whose separation, for even a moment, renders all the universes void... like bodies without life! Great generals like Bhishma, Drona, Karna and Jayadratha all directed their weapons against me. But, by His grace, they could not even touch a hair on my head. Now all my strength and prowess, which astonished even the demigods, has left me. Due to my lack of esteem for the Lord, I dared to engage Him as my chariot-driver, although He is worshiped and served by the best of men! O emperor, now that I am separated from my dearmost friend and well-wisher, my Lord Govinda, I can simply remember those Divine instructions sung to me by Him on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. This is the only relief for my burning heart...

Yudhishthira: Then there is no reason to remain even a moment longer in this earthly life... Arjuna!

Arjuna: Yes, my lord?

Yudhishthira: Inform your grandson, Pariksit, to make all preparations. Tomorrow I will crown him as emperor and master of all lands bordered by the sea!

Arjuna: Yes... at once!

Yudhishthira: And have my servant bring saffron cloth and a staff. That's all... **(Arjuna exits)** I will give up my kingdom at once and, following the path trodden by my forefathers, I will go to the Himalayas and devote myself completely to thoughts of the Lord. Thus I will prepare myself for death...

ACT ONE
SCENE TWO

Yudhishthira Entrusts His Kingdom to Maharaja Pariksit

(Yudhishthira, Pariksit, and 2 guards enter)

Yudhishthira: The total land of the earth is under the control of my throne. As emperor, it is my duty to protect all the citizens, including the animals, from all harm and to train them according to the directions of the Supreme Lord. It is under His control and sanction that everything moves, and thus I am also His servant. Under his guidance, all of the citizens on the earth are happy in all respects, free from the disturbances of sinful life.

Pariksit, you are my grandson. You have been trained to assume leadership. This age is a difficult one. As emperor, it will be your duty to protect the citizens from degradation. Now I am growing old. The time has come for me to give up material activities and devote myself entirely to the Lord. I must prepare myself to return to Godhead. **(he crowns Pariksit and gives him a sword. Pariksit bows, thinks for a while, then addresses audience:)**

Pariksit: My dear citizens, my friends, as king it is my duty to give protection to the residents of the land, and therefore I am here to serve you all. We are entering difficult times. This Age of Kali is very dangerous for the human beings. Human life is meant for self realization and to

understand we are all brothers. Not only the humans, but the animals, the birds, the trees, they are our brothers as well. Together we must acknowledge and glorify the Supreme Personality of Godhead, our common father. Due to the influence of this Age of Kali, men will completely forget the aim of life. The sages foresee that in this age men will become mad after sense gratification. They will become short-lived, quarrelsome, misguided, and above all always disturbed. Finally, at the end of the age, the only philosophy will be, "I will kill you and eat you or you will kill me and eat me."

Yudhishthira: But, my dear friends, before these tragedies come about, in the midst of the turmoil of this age, there will be a renaissance of transcendental knowledge and religious principles. At that time, men everywhere — in every town and village all over the world — will be given the opportunity to revive their relationship with the Supreme Father and glorify His Holy Name by the congregational chanting of the Holy Names of the Lord!

Narrator: After placing Pariksit Maharaja upon the throne, Yudhishthira at once relinquished his royal garments, belt and ornaments, and thus he became fully freed from all designation of this world. Then he dressed in tattered cloth, gave up eating solid foods, became dumb voluntarily and let his hair hang loose. Appearing like a madman, Yudhishthira set off for the Himalayan mountains in the north, and gradually absorbed himself in meditation on the Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna. Thus fixed in remembrance of the Lord, Yudhishthira Maharaja gave up his body and went back home to Godhead.

The other sons of Pandu — Bhishma, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva — thereafter saw that Kali's age had already arrived throughout the world, and seeing irreligion rife among the common people, they too left home and followed in the footsteps of their glorious brother, Yudhishthira Maharaja.

Meanwhile, the grandson of the Pandavas, that great and saintly king, Pariksit Maharaja, began to rule the people of the earth under the guidance of the best of the twice-born *brahmanas.* But while he was residing in the Kuru empire's capital, the symptoms of the iron age of Kali-yuga began to infiltrate within the jurisdiction of his state. Pariksit did not think this matter very good, but it did afford him a chance to fight for righteousness and justice. Thus he took up bow and arrows, left his palace, and set off to conquer all directions. At that same time, Dharma, religiosity personified, was wandering here and there in the form of a bull, and he met mother Bhumi, the earth personified, appearing as a cow.

ACT ONE
SCENE THREE

How Pariksit Received The Age Of Kali

(Scene opens with Bhumi the cow crying and lamenting bitterly. Dharma the bull enters)

Dharma: O mother earth, are you not hale and hearty? A shadow of grief has covered your face... Are you not well, or are you sad, being parted from a loved-one who's in a far-distant place? My three legs – austerity, purity, and mercy – are broken; now, on truth alone do I stand. Are you lamenting to see me forsaken and so badly crippled by Kali's cruel hand? Or are you anxious, my dear mother, because you can see the merciless men who soon will appear to torture and butcher your sisters and brothers, to exploit your lands and fill your children with fear? Or are you feeling compassion for the unhappy women and their children, forlorn by unscrupulous cheats? Or for the plight of innocent citizens, bewildered and plundered by thieves dressed as government leaders and priests? Mother earth, you were blessed by Lord Krishna, who appeared to free you from all of your burdens and fears. But now that He has left you alone, are you crying for Him? Pray tell me the cause of your tears!

Bhumi: O Dharma! O emblem of perfect religion! By the Lord's mercy you made this world glad. Now that I have heard all of your questions, I'll tell you the reasons why I am so sad. For a while, I beheld the Lotus Feet of Lord Krishna, who enjoyed His pastimes while walking upon this earth. At that time, all my forests, seas, mountains and rivers were blessed with such uncommon beauty and worth. But at the end, while I was feeling such good fortune, the Lord, in whom all goodness and beauty rests, finished His pastimes and left me here alone, and in this dark age I am so much distressed. **(Kali enters and begins to beat the bull and the cow with a stick)**

Kali: All right, you stupid beasts... move! **(to the bull)** I see! You don't want to work anymore for me? And you, you old cow... you cannot give me any milk or calves now? Useless!!! There's only one thing left for you... the butchers knife! Yes! But first, I'll beat you to within an inch of your life! **(Maharaja Pariksit enters as Kali begins to beat them severely)**

Pariksit: Stop! You rogue – just when Lord Krishna and Arjuna are out of sight, you dare to beat an innocent bull and cow? Well, let me tell you, that

one who causes offenseless creatures to suffer must fear me, anywhere and everywhere in this world, for I subdue all envious men! O culprit, now you'll pay for your sins, for you are truly a villain, though dressed as a king! Though strong, you dare harm those who are helpless! But now your time is nigh by the sword you have lived, so now, by the sword... you must die!!!

Kali: O!!! My dear lord! **(throwing himself at Maharaja Pariksit's feet)** O merciful master, I surrender unto you! Please spare my life... please have pity on me!

Pariksit: Since you have surrendered completely, I will not kill you, so there is no need to fear for your life. But you cannot remain in my kingdom, for you are the friend of irreligion; and where you reside, greed, treachery, cheating and vanity will certainly abound. Get ye hence!

Kali: O Your Majesty, you are most kind to spare me! But if I must be exiled from your kingdom, where then can I go? For no place on this earth lies beyond your power of rule! O my dear king, you are the defender of truth and of all helpless beings. I beg you, please allow me some place where I may stay always and peacefully linger!

Pariksit: All right, you may live wherever you find these four pillars of sinful life gambling, intoxication, animal slaughter and prostitution.

Kali: O thank you so much, O great saintly king!
But before I go, there is just one thing
for under your holy and powerful reign,
none of these pillars of sin can remain!
So, by your grace, is there just one more place?

Pariksit: For a beggar, your demands are very bold!
All right, you may stay whenever men hoard;
there lust, lies and envy prevail.
Now, begone! Before my patience fails.

Kali: **(scuttling off)** O master, thank you! Thank you!!! O gracious lord, thank you... you won't regret this... **(Kali runs off, and his villainous laugh is heard offstage)**

Pariksit: Fear not, O son of Surabhi, lament no longer! And, O mother cow, there is no cause for you to cry!
For as long as I live and rule this land,
I will not fail in my duty to stand

and protect all creatures from treacherous hands!

Dear mother earth, surely Lord Krishna again will appear.
Take heart! For by thinking of Him, He is already here!
Come now, Dharma, let me ease your pains.
We'll soon have you back on your feet again!

ACT TWO
SCENE ONE

Kali and His Consort Sin

Kali: This is my age, O queen, now just begun. I'm allowed 400,000 years in which to have my fun! Wars, plagues, suicides, drugs, money, liquor and lies, rapes, bombs, diseases... such a feast for my eyes! So rejoice, my queen, our time has come. With perverted desires will I flood their minds; they'll be vultures for pleasure... but only torment will they find!

Sin: Sordid perversions will be in vogue. O Kali, Kali, you're such a rogue!

Kali: Yes, ILLICIT SEX, such a delight! For a moment's pleasure, like dogs they'll fight!

Sin: They'll kill the baby in the womb, making the garbage can his tomb!

Kali: Woman-hunters will scavenge the night, and they'll slaughter the cows for their appetites!

Sin: Which brings us to MEAT-EATING! What would you like for dinner, dear? Some fresh killed pig, chicken or steer? Christmas killed turkey, rabbit or lamb?

Kali: No, love, tonight I'll eat my fellow man!!! **(Kali lunges menacingly at nearest member of audience)** I'll get you all, just wait and see, I'll have no compassion, not one drop of mercy!

Sin: INTOXICATION! Would you like a cigarette, sir? Some coffee or tea? Perhaps you want some burgundy?

Kali: What? Not enough? Here, try some hashish or LSD... Mystical visions do I guarantee... Whatever you want, just come to me!

Sin: What's that? You want more and more? Come, just see what I have in store!

Kali: GAMBLING! You'll make money your life! Your greed for wealth will cause such strife!

Sin: Worship of God? Ha! There will hardly be any. But even the pauper will worship his penny!

Kali: And the leaders of society, so filled with greed, they'll be blind to see that the only way to bring about peace is to rid this world of me... Kali!

Sin: O Kali, Kali, Kali!!!

Kali: The universe came out of a big explosion!

Sin: They'll have no idea how life began, but their lives will end with a nuclear bang!

Kali: Come on, enjoy your life! Do your own thing! It's all absurd! Be your own king!

Sin: Forget tomorrow, just have some fun! It doesn't matter, it's all one... blow your minds and let them run!

Kali: Cook that steak till it's nice and done! They'll try to be master of the world and enjoy a life of ease, but they'll create a hell of concrete skies and plastic trees!

Sin: Like rats they'll race at frightening speeds, encaged in cars of steel, and they'll work like slaves to feed their shiny coffins on four wheels!

Kali: Oh what a tangled web we'll weave, when first they practice to deceive! We'll anaesthetize their brains with senseless songs and television!

Sin: We'll cripple their bodies with chemicals, junk-food and pollution!

Kali: We'll twist their minds with political lies in books and in newspapers!

Sin: And we'll break their hearts in Godless schools, factories and skyscrapers!

Kali: And this is just the beginning... you wait till we really get going!!!

Sin: Corruption of religion is our game, watch austerity, cleanliness, mercy and truth go down the drain!

Kali: And the world will be ruled by the thoroughly insane! For I am Kali!

Sin: And I'm his consort, Sin.

Kali: When we're done, just see how heads will spin!

Sin: You will eat one another, even kith and kin!

Kali: At the end of the age you will be pygmies, short and thin!

Sin: You'll all be old men by the time you're ten!

Kali: For I am Kali!

Sin: And I'm his consort, Sin.

Kali & Sin: AND THIS IS THE AGE THAT WILL DO YOU ALL IN!!! **(they run offstage, laughing madly)**

ACT TWO
SCENE TWO

Kali and Sin And The Six Enemies

(Sin enters along with her six devilish assistants – Lust, Anger, Greed, Illusion, Madness and Envy. They all say "Bravo! Bravo!" and take their places before Sin's throne as she addresses them)

Sin: As seeds grow to become flower-bearing trees, my pets, so like a seed do I lie in the innermost chamber of the heart of all fallen souls. And, day by day, I develop till I do deliver to each and every individual the fruits and flowers of his own sinful life – misery, disease, confusion, pain and poverty. For the sins of his past, a man suffers, but he is uncontrollably impelled by my force to commit more and more sins. And from these, he suffers in the future and again commits more. My innumerable seeds are indestructible. They are deeply sown and, like irrepressible weeds, give misery to all.

By my design the poor soul who contemplates sense objects develops attachment for them. That attachment leads to lust, and from lust, anger arises... from anger, then delusion... and finally loss of intelligence. And when a man loses his intelligence, he comes more firmly under my grip. **(all applaud)**

Thank you, my expert foremen. How grateful I am that with your

assistance my authority has been expanded throughout the universe. My pets, recite to me now what expert means you use to expand my kingdom, and I shall reward each of you as you deserve. **(all speak simultaneously)** Wait, wait, my pets. One at a time, please, one at a time. Now let me see... who shall it be? You begin, O Lust...

Envy: He always gets to start first!

Sin: **(claps)** Silence, Envy!

Lust: **(rises)** O Empress Sin, your influence is boundless. Who can escape the enchantment of your web? I am not one to brag, **(others murmur)** but I must admit that it is I who am the greatest enemy of all the living entities!

All: What, you?!

Sin: **(claps)** Silence! Let him continue.

Lust: Yes, I! It is I, dear Empress, who induces the pure soul to become entangled in your clutches. My work is simple, very simple. Listen, mother, how I do your work to the best of my ability...

The beautiful woman sits in her bedroom, and with her quickly-moving eyes she sees the redness of her own lips in the mirror. And as she brushes her hair, which is black like the wings of a crow, the desires in her mind easily flow. Seeing her own reflection, her mind becomes delighted, and at any time I whisper in her ear... slowly, slowly I say to that lusty woman: *"Alas, O beautiful-eyed one, why are you sitting here alone, not being cared for? Why don't you attract some young man's mind and bind him up? Go, go! For what reason do you remain here idly? How can you tolerate the pride of these young men? Why not make them cry out in desire? Why not make them all roll at your feet?"* With a steady mind she hears these words. Slightly smiling, she rises and, holding the mirror with her own reflection in front of her, the enchantress runs off to conquer in all directions!!!

When I see laziness in a man, I go to him and say: *"O mystifier of the worlds, what are you doing? Just see – women are dying for you! You are just like a bumble-bee, now go and drink honey from many flowers!"* Hearing my sweet words, the scandalous man begins to think himself the lord of love. And at that moment, the beautiful woman attacks him with the arrows of her glances. In this way, the young man and woman fall down by Lust's deception. In the end, they enjoy poisonous fruits, and the depths of their hearts burn day and night. Thus bound by ropes of attachment, they come under your control... their shouts of remorse

never end! In this manner do I, Lust, ever cause the best of men to fall.

Sin: **(happily clapping)** Beautiful! Beautiful!

Envy: Now me! Let me!

Sin: Wait! All in good time! Speak to me, Anger — what is your business?

Anger: O Sin! All glories unto you! Without you, what would this world be like to live in? Please hear of my exploits on your behalf. Lust's work is simple, he says. I couldn't agree with him more. But my work is thorough. He may capture a man's senses, mind and intelligence, but it is my toxins that pollute his whole body. After Lust does what little he can, his victim gets passed on to me. **(Lust responds with insults)** Then I make the man's gentle voice harsh and loud, his muscles taut, his heart palpitate, his actions uncontrolled. Just see the pauper in my palm, his blood boiling and his face flushed red by my wrath! That soul will not listen, reason cannot find him, patience has deserted him. Only arrogance and pride provoke him, and he turns upon his own beloved wife, children and friends. Being unkind to them, he suffers all the more. O dearest Sin, devastation is my work! You can see the evidence of my work everywhere in the form of enmity: between husband and wife, between brothers, friends and families, between societies, religions and nations. I have men at each other's throats over mere trifles. Then after my brief visit is over, my black shadow, war, arrives! And that's when the real fun begins! **(harsh laughter. The other enemies mimick his laughter sarcastically)** Ah shut up! Shut up!

Sin: Next! Who shall speak next? **(clamor)** Quiet! **(immediate silence)** All right, Greed, go on.

Greed: Of all your foremen, sweet Sin, I truly am the foremost! **(all respond negatively)** Like a faithful gardener, I lavishly water the seeds you so carefully sow! Please hear, Your Majesty, of my qualifications — of which you certainly already know. Whatever there may be within the universe to satisfy one's senses can never satisfy me. Even though a man has everything, under my influence he wants more. With discontent by my side, I sap the very vitality of human life. Where I reside, rest assured, happiness never dares show her face. My pitiful prisoner, one foot through the gate of hell, thinks: *"So much wealth do I have today, and I will gain more according to my schemes."* Thus he works hard like an ass day in, day out, and even overtime...

Rushing to work at breakneck speed, full of anxiety, convinced that he is free. But in truth he's working for me!

No matter what he goes through and gets, it will never make amends...
thus he takes to stealing and cheating, even from his friends.
Then they steal from him and, thus oppressed,
they become enemies over a farthing or less.

Let but my sticky fingertips lightly touch the most esoteric philosopher, the most advanced scientist, the most renowned politician, the most brilliant poet, and they become morose, living a life of two extremes: hankering for future gain, and lamenting for past loss.
Ahhh! Just see how I make them all insane!

Illusion: Ho-hum!

Greed: My queen, these are the waters of my reign...

Illusion: Enough!

Greed: ...and the flood has only just begun...

Illusion: Enough!

Greed: ...by my touch, they all become undone!

Illusion: I can't stand any more!

Greed: Too bad!

Sin: Illusion, Illusion, please.

Illusion: **(jumping up and interrupting Greed)** O Sin! With all due respect, I have heard enough! After all, why does a man endeavor to enjoy himself? And why is he angered when he fails? I ask you why... why is he dissatisfied with his wealth? It is because I, Illusion, have spread my veils. You should know that all beautiful, glorious and mighty sins spring from but a spark of my splendor. **(Sin squirms nervously)** With but a single fragment of myself, I pervade and support all these other petty seedlings. **(other enemies protest vigorously)** Why do I reign supreme?

All: Supreme?!

Illusion: For one reason only: because of my cheerful smile called ignorance. It is due to ignorance, Madame Sin, that men are overcome by your

glance. Poor little Lust and Anger simply carry on my work. **(negative response)** And when I make a man want more than what he's due, then only is he susceptible to you, O noble Greed! And why are souls called fallen? Because I cast them down. And why do they stay down? Because I enshroud them. For every being is born in my grip, overcome by desire and hate.

I have decided for modern man
that life is a complex chemical combination,
that there is no God in control,
and within the body there is no soul.
He thinks that his body made merely
of earthly lifeless elements
is his complete identity.
Poor lost little living entity!

He's unaware that there's a joyful Lord in control,
that within the body, there's a blissful living soul.
You see, they only age in years, but not in knowledge,
for I hide reality behind my shawl,
for the detriment of one and all.
Good queen, you know this world to be
a place of death, happiness has no place here.
But for them, this truth is wholly unclear.

They are blind, for within their minds, I pit hope against hope. "Things will be better," they think, "and the future is so bright."

That's my master plan...
to keep them locked up in this sham.

Sin: Your master plan?

Illusion: Well, I didn't mean...

Sin: That is quite enough now, Illusion. Don't let yourself get carried away.

Illusion: But my Queen, I haven't...

Sin: Sit down, Illusion! Sit! Good. Now, Madness, you've been ominously quiet and reserved. Let's hear of your play.

Madness: I, reserved? How very droll.

Sin: Why not let us into the labyrinth of your mind?

Madness: Excuse me if I seem a bit reserved. A real hero shows prowess by his actions, not high sounding words. **(negative response)** Allow me to quietly reveal my seductive plot. Man is mortal; this statement seems quite sound, you must admit. **(responses: "So what else is new? Ho-hum!")**

Old folks have died, and he who is a child today,
will sooner or later pass away.
Yet although he knows his destiny to be dust,
he madly accumulate more and more and more,
and becomes a prime target for Illusion, Greed, Anger and Lust.
And why? Because he cannot help himself... he must!

All: He must?

Madness: He must! Do you hear? And this is the substance of my gift... This is what I, Madness, contribute. So, Mistress Sin, you can see that I'm the best, I trust.

Sin: **(to Madness)** Hmmm. Perhaps. After all, there is method to your madness. Well now, Envy. Envy?

All: Hey Envy!!!

Envy: Huh? Who, me?

All: Yes, you!

Sin: At last it is your turn to beat the drum. But I must caution you – don't be too malicious!

Envy: Who, me?

All: Yes, you!

Envy: (intensely eager) To begin with, O Queen, let me ask: From which tree do the seeds of sin come? **(all respond in favor of themselves)** Wrong! From me! **(all freak out)**
There – you see! Ha! The desire-tree of Envy!
Without me, men would live peacefully,
he'd not care if another was more opulent than he.
None would strive to accumulate more and more,

and then, Madness, where would you be?
Lust, Anger, Greed, Illusion and Madness all envy me! **(wild response)**
They know that only my call
lures the soul to want what is not his
and makes him fall **(faint *kirtan* is heard in distance)**
and it all begins when he envies God!!!
That's why I will never let it end,
for my roots are stronger than an iron rod.
And nothing in this world can ever make them bend. **(dissention increases)**

(a *kirtan* is heard offstage in the distance, and this does not stop for the rest of the play. The actors must shout over it)

Sin: Shhh, quiet. Listen! What's that?

All: What's what?

Sin: That sound!

All: What sound?

Sin: That! That horrible sound. It sounds like music...

All: Music?

Sin: Yes, happy music!

All: **(they stand up)** Yes, yes it is!

Sin: All right, who's responsible for this?

All: Honestly, Sin, we didn't...

Sin: I warn you if this is someone's idea of a joke, I'm not amused! I want it stopped. I want it stopped immediately! **(silence, no one moves)** Well, someone do something. Someone go out there and tell them to stop it this instant! **(Kali enters)**

All: Kali! Kali!

Sin: O Kali! How wonderful to see you, my dear! **(*kirtan* is more noticeable in background)**

Kali: **(sadly)** O my Queen, my poor Queen...

Sin: What,s the matter, Kali?

Kali: **(distraught, pacing back and forth)** I never thought it could happen... Brace yourself, my queen, I have bad news.

Sin: Bad news?!

Kali: Yes. It's all over! Our doom is in the making!

Sin: Our doom?

Kali: Yes! They are chanting and spreading those horrible names!

Sin: What names?

Kali: You know □ those names!

Sin: What are you talking about?

Kali: Must I spell out everything for you? The Holy Names of Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead! They are planting those names in the minds and hearts of everyone, everywhere!

Sin: Oh no! No!

Kali: Our entire empire is quaking!

Sin: But how can that be? We've sown
uncountable seeds of sin within their hearts. **(All: □Yes! Yes!□)**
And those seeds will kill piety
like piercing, poisonous darts. **(All: □They must! They must!□)**

Kali: **(shakes his head dismally)** Excuse me, don't you realize this chanting of the Lord's names nullifies all sinful seeds...

Sin: Nullifies?

All: Nullifies?

Kali: ...and all reactions to sinful deeds?

Sin: no, no, it can't be!

Kali: Yes, it can. It's useless! All our work gone for nought; it's useless, don't you see?

Sin: **(in extreme anxiety)** But I don't understand. It just can't be!

Kali: But it can, it can! The Supreme Lord has come to say: "Abandon all varieties of religion, just surrender unto Me and I'll protect you from all sin."

Sin: **(more calmly)** Oh, is that all? But that's not news! No one will listen to that when faced by Envy's might! **(All: "Right!")** And who will care for such words when Lust makes his strike? **(All: "Right!")** Our stalwart army will not fall! **(All: "Never!")**

Kali: **(interrupts her, shouting)** That's where you're wrong! Our stalwart soldiers are being used by these devotees!!!

Sin: What gall! **(All: "What gall!")** They must be deprogrammed at once... **(All: "At once")** ...once and for all!

Kali: Listen! They transform their lust into love for the Lord.

Sin: For the Lord?!

All: Disgusting!

Kali: They use their anger and envy to fight those who decry the Lord and His divine plans. Their greed becomes eagerness to attain the Lord's favor. And separation from the Lord will make even Madness stand mute with folded hands as they wait for their beloved Lord to benedict the devotees with His ecstatic flavor! These devotees seem to taste some mysterious sweet that gives them strength to control their minds!!! O my queen, what can it be that makes our treats tasteless? **(Lust, Anger, Greed, Envy and Madness slink off; only Illusion remains)**

Sin: Let them try to control us! Illusion will captivate them back to our view! Just wait and see!

Kali: **(with sad voice)** O my poor Queen, I'm afraid Illusion won't do!

Sin: **(hopelessly)** What do you mean, Illusion won't do?

Kali: Let me show you. Illusion, come here! Under whose control are you?

Illusion: Sin's of course. For the source of my power, it is Sin I woo.

Kali: That may be true. But beyond her milieu, in whose shadow do you stand?

Illusion: (great hesitancy) I? Well. I stand behind the Lord!

Kali: And who is your Lord?

Illusion: My Lord? Why, ultimately Krishna, of course. Who else?

Sin: Ah! Don't mention that name! **(she tries to attack Illusion but Kali stops her)**

Kali: Wait! And when your Lord commands you, can you afford to disobey?

Illusion: No, never. How could I disobey my Lord? **(he runs off. Sin calls after the enemies)**

Sin: Illusion! Envy! Greed! Those miserable clowns claimed to abound in the confines of my world. But I've found their boasts to be merely bad jokes. May they all to their deaths be hurled! **(chanting continues. Kali and Sin look at each other for a moment, listening. They continue talking, but now more slowly than before)**

Sin: What a cacophonous disruption! **(pause)** I demand to see who's doing this! **(gets up to go)**

Kali: **(alarmed)** O my consort Sin, if you wish to stay with me, I urge you not to go!!! **(to *kirtan* party)** Stop it! Stop it! My head is about to burst!!! **(he sits down as if he has a great headache)**

Sin: **(to herself)** Until this happened, our might was immeasurable! How could they deal such a blow? I must know! I must go... I must see how it could be so! **(she turns, sees Kali is not watching and runs off)**

Kali: **(immediately looks up and sees she's gone)** Wait! Wait! Sin! You'll be entrapped by our foe! **(he runs after her)**

ACT THREE
SCENE ONE

Lord Chaitanya Bids Farewell To His Devotees

(Lord Chaitanya and His devotees explode upon the stage and the personified Kali and Sin flee in fear. The *kirtan* builds up to an ecstatic climax and then ends. Lord Chaitanya sits surrounded by the devotees and speaks movingly)

Lord Chaitanya: My dear devotees, to see all of you before Me is the pleasure of My life, so how can My heart bear it now that all of you must return to Bengal? Please return here every year to see Me. Advaita Acharya, I consider you to be My Spiritual Master. Please give love of Krishna to all, even the lowest of men. And My dear Nityananda, you should spread devotional service throughout Bengal. Take with you Ramadas and Gadadhara, and sometimes I will also come to see your dancing, which purifies the three worlds.

O Srivasa, when you perform *sankirtan* in your house, know for certain that I am present there. Please take *prasada* from Lord Jagannath to my mother...

My dear Raghava Pandit. I am obliged to you, due to your pure love for Me. Everyone please hear of the pure devotion of Raghava Pandit. Every day, he prepares the finest fruits with great care and attention, and offers them to the Deity, along with cakes, sweet rice and all the finest foods and paraphernalia. Everyone is satisfied by his service...

All you inhabitants of Kulina-grama must come to Me every year and bring silken rope to carry Lord Jagannath.

Satyaraja Khan: O Lord, I am a materialistic man, entangled in household life. What is my duty?

Lord Chaitanya: Always chant the Holy Name of Krishna, and try to serve Him and His devotees, the Vaishnavas.

Satyaraja Khan: My Lord, how can one recognize a Vaishnava? What are his common symptoms?

Lord Chaitanya: Anyone who chants the Holy Name even once is considered to be worshipable, for by so doing all his previous sinful activities are nullified. There are no barriers in this chanting, and anyone can worship the Lord in this way and become purified, even the lowest of men. This chanting awakens one's dormant love for Krishna. Therefore anyone who is chanting the Holy Name of the Lord is understood to be a Vaishnava

and worthy of one's worship.

Ah, Vasudeva Datta, what can I say about your pure love for Sri Govinda? Your love for Krishna is so strong that it can illuminate the darkness in the hearts of all the fallen souls. **(Vasudeva Datta becomes embarrassed and touches the Lords Lotus Feet)**

Vasudeva Datta: My dear Lord, You appear just to deliver all the conditioned souls. As you are the Supreme independent Lord, I have one petition to make before You. O Lord, my heart breaks to see the sufferings of the entangled living entities, therefore I request you to transfer the *karma* of their sinful lives upon my head. O Lord, let me always remain in a hellish condition, but please let their sufferings finish. **(Sri Chaitanya is overwhelmed)**

Lord Chaitanya: Such a statement is not astonishing, for you are actually Prahlada Maharaja and Krishna has bestowed all mercy upon you! Whatever you desire Krishna will give, there is no need for you to suffer! My dear Vasudeva Datta, the purity of your love is unmatched, and because of that love all living beings in the universe will certainly be liberated!

Now, My dear devotees, you must return to Bengal, but do not think that I will be separated from you, for wherever the Holy Name of Sri Hari is chanted by His devotees, certainly I am present. Come now... take heart! Let there be *kirtan!* **(a very slow and ecstatic *kirtan* begins and all the devotees of Lord Chaitanya dance... after a short time the Lord and his devotees take their place in the background and a spotlight brings the attention to the front of stage, where Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura enters and stands)**

ACT THREE
SCENE TWO

The Vision Of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura

Bhaktivinoda: When the eastern horizon became tinged with the redness that heralds the rising of the sun, the jewel among the *brahmanas,* Lord Gaura-sundara, immediately awakened. Taking His devotees with him, He journeyed through the towns and villages of Nadiya. The *mridangas* resounded *"tathai tathai"* and the *karatals* in that *kirtan* played in time. Lord Gauranga's golden form slightly trembled in ecstatic love of Godhead, and His anklebells jingled.

The Lord called out to the townsfolk: *"Wake up, sleeping souls! Wake*

up! You have slept so long in the lap of the witch called Maya. You have achieved this rare human body. Don't you care for this gift? If you don't worship Krishna, the darling of mother Yashoda, then great sorrow awaits you at the time of your death. With every rising and setting of the sun, a day passes and is lost. Why then do you remain idle and not serve the Lord of the heart? I have descended just to save you. Other than Myself, who else is your friend? I have brought the medicine for destroying the illusion of Maya. Now pray for this Hari-nama Maha-mantra, and take it." Thus, this Bhaktivinoda falls at the lotus feet of Lord Gauranga and begs to be blessed with the Holy Name... *Sri-Sri-Nitai-Gaura-Premanandi Hari Haribol!!!*

Sri-Harinama-Sankirtan-Yajna ki jaya!!! Yes, this principle of *kirtan* is the future church of the world; it invites all classes of men, without distinction of caste or clan, to the highest cultivation of the spirit. This church, it appears, will extend all over the world, and take the place of all sectarian churches, mosques and temples. After all, Lord Chaitanya did not advent Himself for the benefit of a few men of India, but to liberate all living beings, of all countries, throughout the entire universe. The Lord has said: "*In every town, country and village, My name will be sung.*" There is no doubt that this unquestionable order will come to pass... I am sure that, soon, there will appear a personality who will preach the Holy Name of Lord Hari all over the world! Oh for that day when the fortunate English, French, Russian, German and American people will take up banners, *mridangas* and *karatals,* and raise *kirtan* through their streets and towns. Oh! When will that day come?

My dear Lord Gauranga, when You appeared, You revealed the highest knowledge of the Absolute Truth; but now, due to the ignorance of uncultured men, the Vaishnava faith appears to have become most degraded. Why, it is even considered a beggar's excuse for living at the expense of society.

My dear Lord, how will your super-excellent teachings again be brought forth shining? Alone, I do not have the power to restore them; therefore I am praying that you send me a soul who can achieve this task. My dear Lord Chaitanya! Please fulfill this long-cherished desire of mine. Please, send me a son, who will help me spread your teachings far across the land!

Devotee: (heard from outside the room) Kedaranath! Kedaranath Babu!

Bhaktivinoda: Yes, yes, I am here! What's the matter?

Devotee: (rushing in, breathless) Kedaranath! Your prayer... has been answered!

Bhaktivinoda: What? What are you saying? What has happened?

Devotee: Your wife has given birth...

Bhaktivinoda: Yes?

Devotee: To a son!

Bhaktivinoda: A son? Krishna's mercy! But my prayer was for more than just a son!

Devotee: Oh, I know! This one is very special! He is the one you've been praying for!

Bhaktivinoda: But... how do you know?

Devotee: You should see! His features are so auspicious!

Bhaktivinoda: Yes? But...

Devotee: His eyes... his face... so wonderful!

Bhaktivinoda: But how does that...

Devotee: Listen! Apart from all that, he was born wearing the sacred thread of a *brahmana*!

Bhaktivinoda: **(astounded)** What? Come now...

Devotee: It's true! He was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck and draped across his chest!

Bhaktivinoda: **(in ecstacy)** *Nitai-Gaura-chandra! Haribol! Haribol!* **(runs off stage)**

ACT FOUR
SCENE ONE

Srila Prabhupada Meets His Spiritual Master

(Scene opens with Srila Bhaktisiddhanta and disciples in the background. Enter Narendranath, pulling Srila Prabhupada as a young man named Abhay Charan)

Abhay: Narendranath! I'm not going!

Narendranath: Oh please, Abhay, I'm sure you will like him... he is a wonderful *sadhu!*

Abhay: Oh yes, I know all these *sadhus!* Most of them are simply beggars and *ganja* smokers in the dress of mendicants!

Narendranath: But this one is different, Abhay. He is a pure and powerful Vaishnava.

Abhay: Narendranath! I wish you wouldn't behave like this! I told you I'm not going...

Narendranath: Look, Abhay, I tell you he is extraordinary. He is such a learned scholar, and a great devotee of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. You must meet him! Please!

Abhay: Oh, I...

Narendranath: At least you should see him and judge for yourself.

Abhay: You're so persistent! All right!

Narendranath: You won't regret this Abhay, I promise you.

Abhay: Well, we shall see.

Bhaktisiddhanta: There has not been, there will not be, such benefactors of the highest merit as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and His devotees have been. The offer of other benefits is only a deception; it is rather a great harm, whereas the benefit done by Him and His followers is the truest and greatest eternal benefit... It is not for the benefit of one particular country, causing mischief to another; but it benefits the whole universe... The kindness that Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has shown to *jivas* absolves them eternally from all wants, from all inconveniences and from all distresses... **(Abhay and Narendranath enter, they pay their obeisances and are still rising)**

Bhaktisiddhanta: You are educated young men. Why don't you preach Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's message throughout the whole world?

Abhay: (taken back) How can we spread Indian culture if we are under British rule? First India must become independent, otherwise who will hear your Chaitanya's message?

Bhaktisiddhanta: Krishna consciousness does not have to wait for a change in Indian politics, nor is it dependent on who rules. It is so important, so exclusively important, that it cannot wait!

Abhay: How can you dismiss the cause of independence, as if it were of no importance, when so many of our spiritually minded leaders and saints — even Gandhi himself — are stressing national pride?

Bhaktisiddhanta: Whether one power or another rules is a temporary situation; the eternal reality is Krishna or God consciousness, and the real self is the spiritual soul. Therefore no man-made political system can actually help humanity. This is the verdict of the Vedas. Everyone is an eternal servant of God, but if one takes himself to be the temporary body, and if one regards the nation of his birth as worshipable, then he is in the greatest illusion. The leaders and followers of the world's political movements, including the independence movement, are simply cultivating this illusion, and therefore they are no better then cows and asses. Real welfare work, whether individual, social or political, should help prepare a person for his next life and help him to re-establish his eternal relationship with Krishna.

Abhay: Yes, that is true, but oppression of the people is a reality... and the British slaughter of innocent citizens is a reality. Surely, at the present time, the people's cause is the only relevant movement, and spiritual life is a luxury which can be afforded only after independence.

Bhaktisiddhanta: Lord Sri Krishna is the highest Vedic authority, and in the *Bhagavad-Gita* he declares: *sarva-dharman parityajya mam ekam saranam vraja, aham tvam sarva-papebhyo moksayisyami ma sucah* — that one should give up all so-called *dharmas* and religious duties and surrender unto Him, the Personality of Godhead. The *Srimad-Bhagavatam* confirms this: *dharmah projjhita kaitavo 'tra paramo nirmatsaranam satam* — all other forms of religion are impure and should be thrown out; only *Bhagavata-dharma* — performing one's duties to please the Supreme Lord — should remain. The problem is that the people have become faithless. They no longer believe that devotional service to God can remove all anomalies, even on the political scene. How can someone claim to be a leader of the people if he is ignorant of the soul and identifies with this dead body as the self? He is simply a fool, and yet they are all following... blind men led by another blind man into the

ditch. There is no scarcity in this world... the only scarcity is of Krishna consciousness. But all these men — Subhash Chandra Bose, Bannerjee, Lajpat Rai, Gandhi — they have all failed to solve the real problem of society; rather, they simply added to the chaos and confusion.

This whole world is simply a society of cheaters and cheated. It is not a fit place for a gentleman. Therefore one should simply aspire to leave this material world and go back to home, back to Godhead. The urgent need is to render the highest good to humanity by educating people about the eternal soul and its intimate loving relationship with Krishna. This is Lord Chaitanya's instruction to everyone born in India: *bharata-bhumite haila manusya-janma yara, janma sarthaka kari kara para-upakara.* So, do not hesitate... take up this important preaching mission and become an instrument in fulfilling Lord Chaitanya's prediction. And what is that prediction? *Prthivite ache yata nagaradi grama, sarvatra pracara haibe mora nama* — that one day the Holy Name of the Lord will be known in every town and every village of the world. *Hare Krishna!* **(Abhay pays his respectful obeisances, rises and leaves with Narendranath... they appear again, front stage)**

Narendranath: So, Abhay, what was your impression? What do you think of him?

Abhay: He is wonderful! The message of Lord Chaitanya is in the hands of a very expert person!

Narendranath: I knew you would like him, Abhay.

Abhay: Yes, he is a very nice saintly person. Narendranath, I think, were it not for my wife and family commitments, I would immediately join him. **(pause... then thoughtfully)** Still, in my heart, I have accepted him. Yes, I have accepted him!

ACT FOUR
SCENE TWO

Srila Prabhupada's Journey To America

(Scene opens with Srila Prabhupada sitting behind a makeshift desk — his trunk — on board the steamship Jaladuta during the long journey from Calcutta to Boston, U.S.A... A few large volumes of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* are visible. He is sitting in the light of a lantern, wearing

glasses, and he looks weak in health. As he is writing, he pauses occasionally to think. He seems to be very thoughtful and grave, and at same time there is an unmistakable mood of determination, victory, ultimate happiness and peace about him. As he writes, his thoughts are heard)

Prabhupada: Today the ship is plying very smoothly. I feel today better. But I am feeling separation from Sri Vrindavan and my Lords Sri Govinda, Gopinath, Radha-Damodara. I depend fully on Their mercy, so far away from Vrindavan. I have left Bharata-bhumi, just to execute the order of Sri Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, in pursuance of Lord Chaitanya's order. I have no qualification, but have taken up the risk, just to carry out the order of His Divine Grace. By his strong desire, the Holy Name of the Lord Gauranga will spread throughout all the countries of the western world. In all the cities, town and villages on the earth, from all the oceans, seas, rivers and streams, everyone will chant the Holy Name of Krishna.

Although my Guru Maharaja ordered me to accomplish this mission, I am not worthy or fit to do it. Therefore, O Lord, now I am begging for your mercy so that I may become worthy, for you are the wisest and more experienced of all. Today that remembrance of You came to me in a very nice way. Because I have a great longing, I called to You. I am Your eternal servant and therefore I desire Your association so much. O Lord Krishna, except for You, there is no other means for success...

(there is a knock on the door. Captain and Mrs. Pandia enter)

Prabhupada: Captain Pandia... Mrs. Pandia! *Hare Krishna!*

Cpt. Pandia: Maharaja, how do you feel now? Has your health improved?

Prabhupada: Oh yes, yes. Do not worry! The chest pains have gone now, and but for a slight headache, I am feeling much better.

Mrs. Pandia: Oh, this is good news. We were really worried about you, you know, Swamiji!

Prabhupada: If the Atlantic had shown its usual face, perhaps I would have died. But Lord Krishna has taken charge of the ship.

Cpt. Pandia: Yes, I believe you are right. I have sailed these waters a hundred times, but never in my entire career have I seen such a

calm Atlantic crossing!

Prabhupada: It is Krishna's mercy.

Cpt. Pandia: Yes!

Mrs. Pandia: Swamiji, perhaps you will come back with us, so that we may have another crossing such as this one! **(they all laugh)**

Prabhupada: Yes, yes, surely I would return with you. But I have my mission to fulfill!

Cpt. Pandia: Yes. I would like to help you, Maharaja. Is there anything we can do before you go?

Prabhupada: Mmmm? Yes... you take these copies of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* – this is the First Canto in three volumes – simply try to understand it, chant Hare Krishna, and you will be happy, that's all. This is the best thing you can do for me.

Cpt. Pandia: This is... most kind...

Mrs. Pandia: Oh Swamiji, we cannot possibly thank you enough...

Cpt. Pandia: Maharaja, here's twenty dollars. Please accept it as a donation for the books. It's not much, but it may help you.

Prabhupada: (touching the money to his head) Thank you very much!

Mrs. Pandia: Your future looks very bright, Swamiji, I can tell these things. That you have passed beyond this crisis shows that you have the blessings of Lord Krishna.

Prabhupada: *Hare Krishna!*

Cpt. & Mrs. Pandia: *Hare Krishna!* **(they leave. Srila Prabhupada rises, and with the help of his stick he walks to the front. Leaning on the ship's rail, he peers out across the ocean to Boston's bleak and dirty skyline)**

Prabhupada: My dear Lord Krishna, You are so merciful upon this useless soul, but I do not know why You have brought me here. Now You can do whatever You like with me. But I guess You have some business here, otherwise why would You bring me to this terrible

place? Most of the population here is covered by the material modes of passion and ignorance. Absorbed in material life, they think themselves very happy and satisfied, and therefore they have no taste for the transcendental message of Vasudeva. I do not know how they will be able to understand it. But I know Your causeless mercy can make everything possible, because You are the most expert mystic. Somehow or other, O Lord, You have brought me here to speak about You. Now it is up to You to make me a success or failure as You like.

ACT FOUR
SCENE THREE

Srila Prabhupada's Preaching In America

(A slide show should accompany the Narrator's praise of Srila Prabhupada's accomplishments)

Narrator: Srila Prabhupada arrived in America, practically penniless and hardly knowing in which direction he should go. For a while he wandered here and there... to Butler, Pennsylvania, then to New York, where he stayed with Dr. Mishra (a Mayavadi *yogi*), and then to the Bowery – Skid Row, full of bums and drunkards. There he shared a loft with a drug-crazed hippie, till one day the boy finally went mad and Prabhupada was on the street with nowhere else to go. In this way, alone, for one year he was preaching – through the bitter New York winter – impoverished and a stranger in a city so degraded...

Then, at last, on the Lower East Side, one by one, bedraggled refugees of Kali-yuga – hippies, fed up with materialism, and disillusioned with the so-called "flower power movement" – came to him for answers and for shelter from the rain of confusion. So he simply gave them *kirtan* and, out of curiosity or looking for some kind of mystical experience, they chanted Hare Krishna – although unknowingly, they began their path home to the spiritual sky. With great patience and compassion, Srila Prabhupada gave the message he had brought, and though the first students were so crazy, he spelled the truth out to them all, just like a kindly father: "You are not these bodies, you are spirit souls," he said. "We are all God's servants, so just chant Hare Krishna and be happy!" Many were just too far gone to hear him, but a few were sincere seekers of the truth, and they stayed, listened, learned and followed.

Soon the Swamiji (as he was then affectionately known among his followers) had gathered around himself a faithful band of boys and girls, who gradually began to take to Krishna consciousness. Won over by *kirtan, prasadam* and Prabhupada's devotion to Lord Krishna, they gave up illicit sex, drugs, meat and gambling, and he, in turn, accepted them as his own disciples. But as soon as a few of them were strong enough to carry on in New

York, immediately he left and went on to San Francisco, where with chanting, dancing, *prasadam* and philosophy, so many hopeless souls were attracted and saved from the web of material life.

In just a few years, the seed had been planted in New York, San Francisco, Montreal, Los Angeles... and across the sea to England, France, Australia and Russia. And Srila Prabhupada went travelling on relentlessly preaching and taking the world by storm. And wherever Srila Prabhupada went with his disciples, people were astonished, journalists were excited, religionists dumbfounded and scientists were smashed! But above all, the peoples' hearts were changed.

In just twelve short years from Srila Prabhupada's arrival in the West until his triumphant return to Goloka Vrindavan, the Supreme abode this world was benefitted with so many of his gifts: more than one hundred beautiful temples, farms, castles, restaurants and palaces, full of thousands of ecstatic Vaishnava sons, daughters, grand-disciples... Sri Mayapura-Chandrodaya Mandir, Vrindavan's Krishna-Balarama temple, West Virginia's New Vrindavan, and the Bhaktivedanta Manor in London, England, to name but a few. He gave us worship of Their Lordships Sri-Sri Radha-Krishna, Sri-Sri Gaura-Nitai and Jagannath-Subhadra-Balarama. And festivals like Gaura-Purnima, Janmashtami and Ratha-yatra flooding this world with nectar. He gave us transcendental dramas, art, music, dioramas, schools to teach our children, farms for developing cow-protection but above all else, he gave us his books! They are the basis, he would say, and he gave every single breath for writing them seventy volumes, in fifty languages, printed in the hundreds of thousands and millions, distributed world-wide. He gave us the foundation for a golden age, a blue-print for the future; but more than that, he left his own example a lifetime of surrender and devotional endeavor, for us to take our strength and inspiration from.

ACT FOUR
SCENE FOUR

Srila Prabhupada's Arrival

Narrator: It is a few minutes before Srila Prabhupada's arrival. The occasion is the celebration of *Vyasa-Puja* held at the Bhaktivedanta Manor in England in 1973. Devotees are running around panic-stricken and ecstatic, trying to get everything ready. The Temple Commander appears in overalls, blurts out a few instructions to the devotees around him, who run off in different directions, and then proceeds to bang some nails in the wall. Just then, the telephone rings and the Temple Commander answers it. Srila Prabhupada is on his way and will be at the temple at any moment! The devotee's anxiety reaches a climax. Then suddenly the arrival *kirtan* is heard and Srila Prabhupada has arrived!

Srila Prabhupada's small but commanding figure walks regally into the temple amidst bowing disciples and uncontrolled chanting of *"Jai Prabhupada! "* The Deity curtains are opened and Srila Prabhupada bows down before Their Lordships Sri-Sri Radha-Krishna and then rises, standing reverentially before Them, his first fingers tapping together lightly, in time with the *"Govindam"* prayers. After a few minutes, Srila Prabhupada turns and walks majestically to his *vyasasana* where he sits and begins to chant *"Jaya Radha-Madhava."* With his *karatals* ringing sweetly, and the *mridanga* following, Srila Prabhupada takes the devotees out into a deep sea of chanting... After only a few minutes, the *kirtan* ends and his Divine Grace begins to speak...

Prabhupada: Sons and daughters I am so much obliged to you that you have become so enthusiastic for offering Vyasa-puja. When Krishna sees that a living entity is very anxious to understand Him or to revive his Krishna consciousness, then Krishna gives him all opportunity, especially by manifesting himself as the spiritual master... *antar bahih*... the spiritual master is therefore Krishna's manifestation, Krishna's mercy manifestation to help a person to develop his Krishna consciousness... Therefore, to advance in Krishna consciousness, we require two kinds of help one from Krishna and another from spiritual master. It is stated in the *Chaitanya-Charitamrita...* You'll be glad to know that the 17-volume book, *Chaitanya-Charitmrita,* is now published!

Devotees: *Jai!*

Prabhupada: *Kiba vipra kiba nyasi sudra kene naya, yei Krishna tattva vettha sei guru haya*. I am sometimes criticized by my godbrothers, that I have become a "marriage-maker," but they do not know why I take this risk. I have got many disciples, they are married couples, but all of them, husband and wife, they are helping this movement. I am very much hopeful that my disciples who are now participating will continue to advance, so, even if I die, my movement will not stop. I am very much hopeful. All these nice boys and girls... Bhaktivinoda Thakura wanted that European and American people may understand the philosophy of Chaitanya cult, and take part in it. That was his desire...

My *guru maharaja,* His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami Prabhupada, he also attempted to send his disciples to preach Chaitanya cult in the western world. First meeting, perhaps you know, he asked me to preach. So at that time I was young man, only twenty-five years old, and I was also householder. So I should have joined and executed his desire immediately, but due to my ill luck, I could not immediately execute his order. But it was in my heart, that it is to be done. So it is better late than never, I executed his order at the age of seventy years, not at the age of twenty-five year. So actually I wasted so much time, I can understand that. From twenty-five... The message

was there when I was twenty-five years old, but I begun at the age of seventy years. But I did not forget the message, otherwise how could I do? That is a fact. I was simply finding out the opportunity to do it. So anyway, although I began very late at the age of seventy years, so by the help of my disciples this movement is gaining ground and is spreading all over the world. So therefore I have to thank you. It is all due to you. It is not my credit, but it is your credit, that you are helping me in executing the order of my Guru Maharaja...

So this movement, Krishna consciousness movement — that you already know, that it is the most essential, most important movement in the human society — so this movement will go on... Nobody can stop... You, all my disciples, everyone should become spiritual master. It is not difficult. It is difficult when you manufacture something. But if you simply present what you have heard from your spiritual master, it is very easy... One may be rascal number one from material estimation, but if he simply strictly follows whatever is said by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu or representative spiritual master, then he becomes a *guru.*

So, it is not very difficult... *Amara ajnaya guru haya*... And what is the difficulty? Chaitanya Mahaprabhu says don't feel any difficulty, because as spiritual master, what you have to do? *Yare dekha tare kaha Krishna upadesa*... Whomever you meet, you simply speak to him the instruction which Krishna gives. What Krishna... The instruction He gives? That is also very easy. What is that? Krishna says: *Man-mana bhava mad-bhaktah mad-yaji mam namaskuru*. Krishna says, "Just become My devotee, always think of Me, offer Me obeisances and worship Me..." And at last Krishna says: *Sarva-dharman parityajya mam ekam saranam vraja*.

So if you simply preach this cult... "My dear friend, my dear brother, you surrender to Krishna," you'll become spiritual master. Become spiritual master! You go door to door. No other talks, simply say: "My dear friend, you are great *sadhu*!" Although he may be rascal number one, still you call him: "*He sadhava*." "Yes, I am *sadhu,* yes. What is your proposal?" Then you say to him, "Kindly forget all nonsense that you have learned! That's all. I am flattering you because I want that you forget everything... All this *yogis* and this and that, meditation... Please, kick out all this!" "Then what, after this?" "*Chaitanya candra carane kurutanuraga*... Just adhere yourself to the lotus feet of Lord Chaitanya!" Then you become spiritual master. That's all. So, if you want to become recognized by Krishna very quickly, you take up this process of becoming spiritual master and present the *Bhagavad-Gita As It Is,* your life is perfect. Thank you very much!

Devotees: All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Srila Prabhupada: Chant Hare Krishna!

(Devotees begin chanting and Srila Prabhupada stays for a few

minutes before rising and leaving the temple room. *Kirtan* continues and becomes very ecstatic)

The End

Lord Caitanya Defeats the Chand Kazi #1

SCENE ONE Nocturnal Kirtans at the Ashram of Srivas Thakur

(The devotees are assembled outside awaiting the arrival of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Lord Nityananda. Their mood is one of eager anticipation. Srivas Thakur is especially anxious and he is busy making last minute arrangements.)

Srivas: (to one of the devotees) So, are you absolutely sure that there will be sufficient prasad for all the prabhus? The cooking is completed and everything is in readiness?

Devotee: Yes, yes, prabhu, everything has been taken care of! The kirtana hall has been washed thoroughly with water, the Lord's seat and garland are ready and the cooked preparations are completely first class! Don't worry about anything!
(pointing) Look! Here is Advaita Acarya!
(All of the devotees offer their obeisances as Advaita Acharya enters.)

Srivas: (embraces Advaita Acharya) Jai Prabhu, welcome to my humble home, everything is now auspicious by you presence. We are just expecting Lord Caitanya and Nityananda at any moment.

Advaita: My dear Srivas, I accept your house as good as the spiritual world because the Lord Himself comes here every evening for kirtan. We all know that it is only on the strength of your devotion.

Srivas: Actually, I have no devotion, but it is only the causeless mercy of the Lord that brings Him here. He is the independent Personality of Godhead. Everything has become so wonderful since He has returned from Gaya after taking His initiation. Yes, Srivas Thakur, the change in Him is most astonishing. Before this, He was posing as a quarrelsome and puffed-up scholar, always arguing with us and challenging our Vaisnava philosophy. But now, He has revealed himself as he foremost devotee, the Personality of Godhead Himself. If God Himself comes as a devotee, who can be a greater devotee than He?

All: Jaya, jaya Sri Caitanya! Jaya Nityananda! Hari hari bol!!
(All the devotees throw themselves to the ground, offering obeisances at the lotus feet of the two Brothers.)

Caitanya: (raising His arms) Hari Bol! Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

All: Hari Bol! (Srivasa garlands Lord Caitanya and Nityananda)

Caitanya: Jai! Jai Sri Krsna! Let us all go inside immediately and begin the kirtan performance. Some of you make sure that these doors are locked so that the nonbelievers cannot enter to spoil the devotional mood of our chanting.

(Everyone leaves. Kirtan starts offstage.)

SCENE TWO Outside the Home of Srivas Thakur

(A roaring kirtan tape plays. A Smarta Brahman comes, listens intensely at the door, he tries the door but it is locked. He feels very frustrated. Another Smarta Brahman comes along.)

2nd Smarta: Good evening, my friend! What's going on here, anyway?

1st Smarta: Ahhh (disgusted) it is nothing! It's just some fanatics having their crazy chanting and dancing behind closed doors.

2nd Smarta: Yes, so I've heard. Every night, they come here to the house of Srivas Thakur and perform their secret rituals. They are all low class men, so coarse and rude that they never even invite us Brahmanas. It's disgusting! I wonder what they are doing in there!

(He tries to peek through a crack in the door.)

1st Smarta: It's useless! They've hung some kind of curtain on the door. From the sounds of it, they're chanting and dancing like madmen. (sarcastic) They're probably throwing themselves on the floor in fits of spiritual "ecstasy," jumping up, spinning and carrying on in all sorts of crazy ways! I wouldn't even stay here for a moment, but I would like to see what they do in there for once! (He peeks again.)

2nd Smarta: I know what you mean, but they always lock the doors on us! I too am practically burning from this insult to respectable brahmins! (He lowers his voice to speak confidentially.)

And guess what? A few days ago, someone finally did something about it!

1st Smarta: Why, what do you mean?!

2nd Smarta: One local Brahmana, our friend (laughing) well …Late the other night, Monday, to be exact, he put all of articles used in the worship of Mother Durga right here in front of the door of Srivas' house, just to embarrass him! After all, these so-called devotees can't be accepted as being on the same level with high grade brahmanas like you and me! They are more on the level of Durga Worshippers. (both laugh) So, just to show everyone the real character of Srivas Thakur, he put the upper portion of a plantain leaf here, at his door, and placed turmeric, vermilion, red sandalwood and rice on it. Then he purchased a pot of wine and put it next to that, (They both laugh.) just as if Srivas Thakur were really worshipping the goddess Durga there! (both laugh hysterically) I wanted to congratulate Gopala Chapala since I heard about it, but he doesn't seem to be around.

(He laughs but the 1st Smarta seems to have become somber about

something.)

1st Smarta: You mean you haven't heard? About Gopala Chapala, I mean?

2nd Smarta: No, has something happened?

1st Smarta: Yes, I'm sorry to tell you that Gopala Chapala has now had to leave the village. He is sitting down on the bank of the Ganges. He has leprosy.

(greatly shocked) No! How terrible! When did this happen?

1st Smarta: The disease attacked him on Thursday. His whole body is now covered with bloody sores and germs and insects are biting him everything! His entire body is burning in distress! (thinking) Hmmmm, you know it's funny ...

2nd Smarta: Funny!?! What's so funny about leprosy?!!

1st Smarta: No, No, I mean it's just peculiar that the disease came just three days after he placed the Durga Puja articles here and tried to embarrass Srivas Thakur.

2nd Smarta: (surprised) Why, do you think that there could be a connection between these two occurrences?

1st Smarta: Well, there are those who say these devotees are all great saints.

(Both of them become a little stunned and glance again and again at the door in wonderment.)

2nd Smarta: Well, I for one am not going to stand here all night. I have better things to do. Whatever's going on here, I don't think we should take the matter into our own hands, the way Gopala Chapala did. Bleeding sores ... leprosy? (recovers his composure) This is a matter for the Kazi, the town magistrate; I shall go to him and personally present the facts as they are! Good evening!

(2nd Smarta leaves and the 1st Smarta stands for a moment more, looking at the locked door, tries one more peek through the crack, then leaves, shaking his head.)

SCENE THREE - Inside the House of Srivas Thakur

Caitanya: Jai! Jai Sri Krsna! Stop the kirtan! By the Lord's grace, that was a wonderful kirtan!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

Caitanya: However, the atmosphere does not seem right, somehow, tonight. It is as if a non-believer were present tonight.

(The devotees look about. Srivas Thakur is especially concerned. Soon, Srivas Thakur finds his mother-in-law hiding under a table.)

Srivas: Mataji! I told you that this kirtan was very private!

Mataji: I'm not hurting anything. I just wanted to see for myself what all the fuss was about!

Srivas: Nevertheless, you must go to your own home now. (He sees her out.) I'm sorry, Lord Caitanya! My wife's mother was just curious. It won't happen again.

Caitanya: That is alright. We will take a short break and have a meeting. Now that many devotees have come from all over the country to join our party here in Navadwip, we have to spread this cult of Krsna Consciousness more and more! That is the duty of every devotee of Krsna. I have already ordered that kirtan be performed in each and every home. Now, I am pleased to see that this is going on nicely, but this is not enough. We should never be content just to enjoy the ecstasy of devotional service ourselves, but should try as far as possible to spread it to all of the suffering souls. So, now I am making a new program. First of all, my two chief whips are Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakur (He places His hands affectionately on them). So, I am asking You both to go from door to door, from house to house, and humbly beg every man you meet to chant the Holy Names of Krsna.

All: Hari Bol! Jai Sri Krsna!

Caitanya: Every evening you should return to Me and tell Me about the day's preaching activities. What's more, I now want all of the devotees to take the chanting of the Holy Names out into the streets and market places. We have kept this nectar to ourselves long enough, now we must distribute it to everyone, and force them to drink this delicious nectar of the Holy Names!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

Caitanya: Now, more kirtan! Hari! Jai Sri Krsna! Hari Bol!

(Lights out, music, change scenery)

ACT TWO SCENE ONE The Palace of the Chand Kazi

(The kazi is sitting on his throne as the same Smarta Brahmanas stand before him. The kazi's servant stands to his right side.)

Kazi: Gentlemen, you are both Hindus by birth, I am just surprised that you have come here to complain against others who practice the same Hindu religion as you do.

1st Smarta: Your honor, we are real Hindus but this Nimai Pandit has introduced the Sankirtan Movement, which we have never heard of from our scriptures. Of course, occasionally we do observe a religious ritual by

singing and dancing and playing musical instruments, but all within reason! This Nimai Pandit was formerly a very nice boy, but since He has returned from Gaya, He conducts Himself differently. Now, He loudly sings all kinds of songs clapping, playing drums and hand cymbals and making tumultuous sounds that deafen our ears! We don't know what He eats that makes Him become mad! He sometimes dances, sings, laughs, cries, falls down and rolls on the ground and jumps in the air! He has made all the people practically mad by always performing congregational chanting!

2nd Smarta: At night, we can't get any sleep, we are always kept awake. Now, He has even given up His own name, Nimai Pandit and allows the people to call Him Gaura Hari! He has spoiled the Hindu religion! He has gotten the lower classes of men to chant the Hare Krsna mantra again and again. In this way, if the common men take to chanting, the power of God's name will be polluted! Sir, you are the ruler of this town; everyone here is under your protection.

1st Smarta: Please make this Nimai Pandit leave town before it is deserted!

(Two Mohammedan Meat Eaters enter in an angry mood, and they greet the kazi.)

1st Meateater: (bowing, with hand gesture from forehead) A salaam alaikum.

Kazi: (with same gesture) Alaikum a salaam.
(to the Meat Eaters) Please excuse me for one moment, my friends. (to Smarta Brahmins) Anyway, gentlemen, I sympathize with you, but after all, the chanting is mainly going on in the private houses of the Vaishnavas and as long as they keep it to themselves in that way, I really can't object too much. Now, good day, gentlemen!
(This reply doesn't please the Smartas but they start to leave, then loiter to hear what the Meat-Eaters have to say.)

1st Meateater: Sir, this time the Hindus have gone too far! They are becoming too bold. If you don't curb them, the King will punish you!

Kazi: What do you mean? What has happened?

!st Meateater: What has happened?! The worst possible thing! The Hindus are starting an uprising!

Kazi: What! That's impossible! Why, ever since the days of the conquering Muslim hero Vaktiyara Khiliji, the Hindus in Bengal have been severely suppressed by us! Practically, none of them have been able to practice their religion freely. In fact, they have almost forgotten their own religious principles, just like those two Hindus who were just here.

2nd Meateater: Well, from what we saw today in the market places and streets of Navadvip, it appears that they are fast to remember those principles. Yes, today in the market place we saw the
Hindus gathered chanting the names of their God. They were making a tumultuous sound and seemed completely fearless. We hear that it is the work of this One they call Gaura Hari!

Kazi: You mean to say that they were actually performing theirchanting in the streets? Why, this is amazing! They've always been such a bunch of cowards, practically like sheep under our thumbs. How can this be?

1st Meateater: You had better ask yourself how to stop it before the king hears of this.

2nd Meateater: You know how cruel he is, if he hears of this he will have your head for being too lenient with the Hindus!

(Both Smarta Brahmins have come back into the room after hearing the news.)

1st Smarta: So now, my dear kazi, it seems as though Nimai's men are no longer content with chanting in their own homes. I think that it is time for you to put a stop to this once and for all!!

Kazi: (brooding) Yes, I think you're right. I think I'll pay a little visit tonight to the streets of Navadvip!

SCENE TWO - The House of Srivasa Thakur

(Loud kirtan is going on at the house of Srivas Thakur. Lord Caitanya is not present. The kazi arrives and shouts for them to stop, but they do not take notice of him due to the kirtan. Then he violently breaks one of the drums, and the devotees stop the kirtan, shocked and dismayed.)

Kazi: For so long you did not follow the regulative principles of the Hindu religion but now you are following them with great enthusiasm. May I know by whose strength you are doing so? No one should perform Sankirtan on the streets of the city! Today I am excusing the offense and returning home; but the next time I see someone performing such Sankirtan, I shall certainly punish him, not only by confiscating all his property but also by converting him into a Mohammedan by forcing him to eat meat!!

(With that the kazi exits and the devotees stand around very dejected. Suddenly, Lord Caitanya arrives.)

All: Jaya Gaura Hari! Hari Bol!

(They all offer their obeisances but do not appear very happy.)

Caitanya: (noticing their dejection) My dear devotees, what is the matter? Why are you not performing the kirtan and dancing?

Srivas: It's the kazi, my Lord, he came here this evening and stopped our kirtan. He even broke this mrdanga! (He hands the broken mrdanga to the Lord, Who looks at it with concern.) He said if we don't give up our chanting, he would take away all our property and make us into Mohammedans!!

Caitanya: Nonsense! You are all eternal devotees of Lord Krsna. Go and perform Sankirtan! Tonight, I shall kill all the Mohammedans!!

(The devotees begin a timid kirtan, looking apprehensively about for the kazi. Lord Caitanya watches with great concern.)

SCENE THREE Lord Caitanya's Room

Nityananda: I would go to every house in the Hindu section and when the householder came to his door, I would fall down at his feet and cry,"Please, I beg you! Just always chant the Holy Names Hare Krsna and depend upon Him!" Hardly a gentleman refused me and so, in this way, many fallen souls were saved today!

Caitanya: Jai Sri Krsna! This is wonderful! Please keep this door to door program going! Now, tell me, how is the chanting party doing, is it still going out daily into the market places and streets of the city?

Haridas: My dear Lord, the chanting party is going out as You ordered, but the devotees' minds are full of anxiety. Ever since the kazi came and broke the drum, the devotees have been afraid, and so, they cannot perform the Sankirtan very blissfully!

Caitanya: I see. Then you should immediately call all of the citizens together. I shall personally perform Sankirtan in each and every town this evening! Therefore, you should all decorate the city very nicely. In the evening, bring torchlights from every home. I shall give everyone protection. Let us see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan!

All: (very blissfully) Jai Mahaprahu! Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

ACT THREE SCENE ONE - Lord Caitanya's Civil Disobedience Movement

(kirtan tape plays in background)

Caitanya: How many people have come for the kirtan?

Srivas: By your command, at least one hundred thousand will join us before we reach the house of the kazi.

Caitanya: Jai! Hari Bol! Let us see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan now!

(Lord Caitanya begins a kirtan and the party moves out of view. When they come out again, their ranks have swelled. If possible, they should hold a few torches. Several tapes of kirtans should be played in background to indicate that other parties are converging on the kazi's house. The kazi comes on but he appears to be very afraid and wanting to hide. He runs off.)

Kazi: Oh no! I see them coming! Roaring and angry! Guards! Protect the walls! I must hide! Oh, Lord! They are breaking down the walls and destroying the gardens!
(Kazi disappears.)

Caitanya: Do not disturb this respectable gentleman's property. We have come for friendly talks. I will sit here by the door. Please inform the kazi that I wish to speak with him.

(Lord Caitanya calms the crowd and stops the kirtan. The devotees go

offstage and in a few moments they return with the kazi, who appears very afraid and reluctant.)

Caitanya: (in a friendly way) Good evening, Chand Kazi, I am Caitanya.

Kazi: Namaste, Sadhuji!

Caitanya: Sir, I have come to your house as a guest, but upon seeing me, you hid yourself in your room. What kind of etiquette is this?

Kazi: (defensively) You came to my house in a very angry mood. I did not come to meet You immediately, just to pacify You. But, now that You are pacified, we can talk freely. Actually, You are just like my nephew, because Your grandfather, Nilambhara Cakravarti was just like an uncle to me in the village where I was a boy. If a nephew is angry, his uncle should be tolerant and similarly, when an uncle commits an offense, the nephew should not take it very seriously.

Caitanya: You are quite right, my dear "Uncle." I have just come to your home to ask some questions about the Muslin faith.

Kazi: And You are welcome here! Now, tell me - just what is on Your mind?

Caitanya: My dear "uncle", You drink cow's milk, therefore the cow is like your mother. The bull produces grains for your maintenance, therefore the bull is like you father. So tell me, what kind of religion is this you practice that allows you to kill your mother and father and eat them?

Kazi: Why, just as You have Your scriptures, we have ours, known as the Holy Koran. In the Koran, there is a regulation for killing cows and if such killing is done under the guidance of scripture, there is no sin.

Caitanya: No! The Vedas clearly say that cows should not be killed. Therefore, the Hindus do not engage in cow killing. However, there is a Vedic injunction which says that if a person is able to revive a living entity, then he can kill it and bring it back to life for experimental purposes. Therefore, the great sages sometimes killed animals and brought them back to life by chanting the Vedic hymns, just to prove the power of the Vedas. But now, there are no brahmanas with such powers and so, in this age, such arts are strictly forbidden.

In this age of Kali, five acts are forbidden: the offering of a cow in sacrifice, the offering of a horse in sacrifice, the acceptance of the order of sannyasa, the offering of oblations of flesh to the forefathers and a man's begetting children by his brother's wife.

Since you Mohammedans can not bring a dead animal back to life, you are responsible for killing that animal. Therefore, you are going to hell; there is no way for your deliverance. Cow killers are condemned to rot in hell for as many thousands of years as there are hairs on the body of the cow they kill.

Kazi: There are many such mistakes in our scriptures. Their compilers, not knowing the essence of knowledge, gave orders against all reason and argument.

Caitanya: My dear, uncle, I wish to ask you another question. Recently, in your city, there is always congregational chanting of the Holy Name going on. As a Mohammedans magistrate, you were at first opposed to the Hindus but now you do not do anything to stop them. When you broke the mrdanga drum, you made some threats but when the chanting continued on the streets, you did not carry them out. I cannot understand why this change has come over you.

Kazi: Kindly listen, O Gaura Hari! Please come to a private place, I shall then explain.

Caitanya: Do not be afraid of these men, they are all My confidential associates, speak frankly.

Kazi: (a little hesitant) Well, when I went to the Hindu's street, broke the drum and forbade the congregational chanting, that very night I had a terrible dream. I saw a greatly fearful lion, roaring very loudly, His body like a human being and His face like a lion!

(The spotlight shifts to a second scene where someone dressed to look like the kazi is lying down. Suddenly, Lord Nrsinghdev appears, roaring loudly. He places his nails on the chest of the "kazi.")

Nrsinghadev: I shall immediately split your chest just as you broke the mrdanga drum! You have forbidden the performance of My congregational chanting, therefore, I must destroy you!

(Kazi 2 closes his eyes and trembles.)

I have defeated you just to teach you a lesson. On that day, you did not create a very great disturbance, therefore, I have excused you and not taken your life. But, if you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant. At that time, I shall kill you, your entire family and all the meat-eaters!! (roars)

(The spotlight shifts back to the scene of the kazi and Lord Caitanya conversing.)

Kazi: After saying this, the lion left, but I was very much afraid of Him! Just see the marks of His nails on my heart!

(Kazi rips open his shirt to show the long, red nail marks of Lord Nrsinghadev.Everyone is amazed except for Lord Caitanya.) I did not speak to anyone about this, but the next day, one of my orderlies came to see me:

(spotlight shifts to second scene where Kazi 2 sits in deep thought.)

Orderly: Your honor, this morning I saw the Hindus again chanting in the street against your order but when I attempted to stop them, suddenly flames struck my face! My beard was burned and there were blisters on my cheeks. Others had the same experience.

Kazi 2: (fearful) Do not try to stop the chanting anymore! Just return to your homes and sit down. (orderly exits)

1st Meateater: Hari! Hari! (throwing his hands up in anguish) Now there will always be unrestricted chanting of Krsna! Krsna! In the streets! The religion of the Hindus will increase unlimitedly. KRSNA! Krsna! That's all we can hear anymore!

2nd Meateater: We are becoming deaf from this Hari Hari! Krsna!
Hari Bol!
(chants and the other Meateater joins him.)

Both: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Kazi 2: Enough! Enough! I know that the Hindus chant Hari and Krsna, for those are the Names of their God. But, why do you two Mohammedan Meateaters also chant?

1st Meateater: (embarrassed) I don't know! I just used to imitate them and joke with them but now my tongue can't stop saying Hari! Hari! Krsna Krsna Krsna Krsna! We have no desire to say it but we cannot help ourselves! I don't know what kind of magic these Hindus practice! I don't know what to do!

2nd Meateater: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare

1st Meateater: Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

Kazi: (comforting them) There now, don't worry, it will probably pass in time. Just go home and rest. I'm sure you will forget these names before long.(to himself) What will happen next? It seems that this Hare Krsna Movement cannot be stopped! (The Meat Eaters leave, still chanting. The spotlight shifts to the conversation between Lord Caitanya and the kazi.)

Kazi: I know now that You are the Supreme Lord, Narayana Himself.

Caitanya: (Pleased, Lord Caitanya touches the kazi.) The chanting of the Holy Name from your mouth has performed a wonder. It has nullified the reactions of your many sins. Now, you have become supremely pure.

Kazi: Only by Your mercy have my bad intentions vanished. Kindly favor me so that my devotion will always be fixed upon You.

Caitanya: I wish to beg you for one favor in charity. You must pledge that this Sankirtan Movement will never again be stopped by you, at least not in the district of Nadia.

Kazi: To as many descendants as take birth in my dynasty in the future, I give this grave admonition: No one shall check this Sankirtan Movement!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! (kirtan)

Lord Caitanya and the Kazi #2 - The Change of Heart

Note: This is mostly a monologue so it requires a very personable actor who can use many different voices and expressions and thus entertain the audience for a long time. The Chand Kazi plays all the speaking characters except for Lord Caitanya. Other actors may form a kirtan party.

Kazi: What a day! What a day! Do you know that my own barber cut me twice while he was shaving me this morning!?! Twice!! He's lucky I'm so tolerant! I know other kazis who would have had him beaten!

Then, a crazy camel spit on me! Yukkh! And, after that, for the rest of the morning, I had to listen to two men arguing over who stole a donkey!

I thought I would sneak out to my garden 'til after lunch where no one would find me but someone must have left the gate unguarded and suddenly one Mohammedan Meat Eater came rushing in as if he'd seen a ghost!(assuming urgent, comical voice)

"Chand Kazi, O noble kazi! Please hear the complaint of this unworthy beggar!" he said.

Oh no, now what!? Maybe I'll just pretend that I don't hear him. (He hums a tune as he walks about. Then, assuming the voice of second panic-stricken visitor.)

"Chand Kazi! Wait! We must speak to you!" Oh no, not two of them! Now, I'll never get away! "Chand Kazi, you must do something about these Hindus!! Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!"

Which Hindus are you referring to? Please explain yourselves!

"The Hindus who are on the streets chanting all the time. Hari! Hari! Hare Krsna! Krsna! They are making a terrible disturbance, Your Excellency. All day they chant Krsna! Krsna! Krsna!"

The second visitor said, " Hare Krsna! Krsna! That's right, Excellency, they chant, they laugh, they cry, they fall on the ground! They are acting like crazy people!"

The Hindus chant Hari because it is the name of their God. But you are Mohammedan Meat Eaters, why do you also chant it?

"We don't want to, that's the problem, Your Excellency. We used to chant just to make fun of the Hindus: (switching to a mocking, teasing voice) 'Hairy Krsnas! Hare Rama! Hari Hari!' And now, we can't stop saying it!

"The first visitor chimed in with: "I don't know what type of spells and magic potions these Hindus use. I don't know what to do!!!"

Yes, yes. I am sure the effect is temporary. Go home and take rest. Good day! (Kazi pretends to wave and shoo them out the door and slaps his forehead as if he can't believe it, shakes it off and starts to do some book work.) (Knock knock knock) Now, who could this be? It looks like one of those pompous, old Hindu priests ... Smart Guys, I think they call them. (assuming an arrogant, cultured accent.)

"Honored Kazi, will you grant me an audience?"

(beckcons) Come forward.

"Sir, You must do something about this Nimai Pandit!!"

You don't like Him either? But, I thought He was one of your religion?

"Not at all, honored Sir; quite the opposite. I represent the Brahmin community and it is our opinion that Nimai Pandit is destroying religious principles with His Sankirtan Movement. Indeed! A priest should stay at home and study scripture. He should be serious. But, this Nimai Pandit spends His day singing in the streets with His followers and dancing like a madman!"

That doesn't sound so bad. (to audience) It sounds better than sitting here all day listening to people complaining!

"You don't understand, Honorable Sir, these Names of God make up the most powerful prayer in the world! Only special people should chant it, people who have had proper training."

People like yourself, I suppose.

"Well, yes ... But, Nimai Pandit is giving it to everyone, even to the lower classes! If everyone starts to chant it, the potency will be lost!"

For so long, the Hindus did not seem to care much for their own religion, yet now they appear to be following with great enthusiasm! I wonder what this person is like who has inspired them so!

"I tell you, Excellency, this Nimai Pandit, who, incidentally, allows his followers to call Him Lord Caitanya and even Gaura Hari, is making all the townspeople go mad! They wildly chant at the top of their voices clashing cymbals, pounding drums and blowing on horns and conch shells! Please protect our religious principles, sir! Make Nimai Pandit leave town!!!"

Since Nimai Pandit and His followers were disturbing both the Muslims and Hindus alike, I figured I had to put a stop to His activities. So, I told my servant, Kumar: I want this order sent throughout the streets of Nadia, right away. "Let it be known that I, the Chand Kazi, from this day, forbid the chanting in the streets of this city by Nimai Pandit or any of His followers."

Well, that should do it! Good day, everyone! Go home now, yes. (waving them out) I expected the rest of my day should be peaceful, at least. Perhaps, I'd go out into my garden now and have a little nap but suddenly in comes my servant as if he'd just survived a war! (as servant, howling) "Chand Kazi! Chand Kazi!" What now! What has happened to you? "I tried to carry out your order, just as you instructed. I saw them chanting in the streets and when I tried to make them stop, flames suddenly came out of nowhere and burned my face!"

“Impossible!" I shouted.

"I tell you, it is true!" he said.

“Well, I am surrounded by fools!” I replied. “Never mind, I will take care of this business myself,” I said.

SCENE TWO

(A roaring kirtan tape plays)

Kazi: (shouting to be heard over the tape. He is angry as he sees the kirtan party before him.) Stop! Stop! I order you to stop. No one is to perform Sankirtan anywhere in this city!!
Give me that drum! (He pantomimes snatching a drum and breaking it upon the ground.) There! Today, I will excuse you, but if I catch you doing it again, I will take away all your property and turn you all into Mohammedans by making you eat meat!
(Kazi leaves stage. Music.)

SCENE THREE

Caitanya: No one can stop the chanting of the Holy Names. I must teach this kazi a good lesson. I have a plan, but I need your help. I want you to ask everyone to decorate their houses, as if for a big festival, with garlands of flowers and mango leaves. Tell them that tomorrow night anyone who can leave their home should bring a torch and follow Me. We will have the biggest chanting party that anyone has ever seen, right up to the steps of the kazi's house. Do not be afraid; I will give you protection. Let's see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan!!

(Lord Caitanya begins a kirtan and the party moves out of view. When they come out again, their ranks have swelled. If possible, they should hold a few torches. Several tapes of kirtans should be played in background to indicate that other parties are converging on the kazi's house. The kazi comes on but he appears to be very afraid and wanting to hide. He runs off.)

Kazi: Oh no! I see them coming! Roaring and angry! Guards! Protect the walls! I must hide! Oh, Lord! They are breaking down the walls and destroying the gardens! (Kazi disappears.)
(Lord Caitanya calms the crowd and stops the kirtan.)

Caitanya: Two or three of you respectable gentlemen, go inside and bring the Kazi. Tell him that I just want to talk with him.
(The devotees go offstage and in a few moments they return with the kazi, who appears very afraid and reluctant.)
(in a friendly way) Good evening, Chand Kazi, I am Caitanya.

Kazi: Namaste, Sadhuji!

Caitanya: Sir, I have come to your house as a guest, but upon seeing me, you hid yourself in your room. What kind of etiquette is this?

Kazi: (defensively) You came to my house in a very angry mood. I did not come to meet You immediately, just to pacify You. But, now that You are pacified, we can talk freely. Actually, You are just like my nephew, because Your grandfather, Nilambhara Cakravarti was just like an uncle to me in the village where I was a boy. If a nephew is angry, his uncle should be tolerant and similarly, when an uncle commits an offense, the nephew should not take it very seriously.

Caitanya: You are quite right, my dear "Uncle." I have just come to your home to ask some

questions about the Muslin faith.

Kazi: And You are welcome here! Now, tell me - just what is on Your mind?

Caitanya: My dear "uncle", You drink cow's milk, therefore the cow is like your mother. The bull
produces grains for your maintenance, therefore the bull is like you father. So tell me, what kind of
religion is this you practice that allows you to kill your mother and father and eat them?

Kazi: Why, just as You have Your scriptures, we have ours, known as the Holy Koran. In the Koran, there is a regulation for killing cows and if such killing is done under the guidance of scripture, there is no sin.

Caitanya: No! The Vedas clearly say that cows should not be killed. Therefore, the Hindus do not engage in cow killing. However, there is a Vedic injunction which says that if a person is able to revive a living entity, then he can kill it and bring it back to life for experimental purposes. Therefore, the great sages sometimes killed animals and brought them back to life by chanting the Vedic hymns, just to prove the power of the Vedas. But now, there are no brahmanas with such powers and so, in this age, such arts are strictly forbidden.

In this age of Kali, five acts are forbidden: the offering of a cow in sacrifice, the offering
of a horse in sacrifice, the acceptance of the order of sannyasa, the offering of oblations of flesh to
the forefathers and a man's begetting children by his brother's wife.

Since you Mohammedans can not bring a dead animal back to life, you are responsible for killing that animal. Therefore, you are going to hell; there is no way for your deliverance. Cow killers are condemned to rot in hell for as many thousands of years as there are hairs on the body of the cow they kill.

Kazi: There are many such mistakes in our scriptures. Their compilers, not knowing the essence of knowledge, gave orders against all reason and argument.

Caitanya: My dear, uncle, I wish to ask you another question. Recently, in your city, there is always congregational chanting of the Holy Name going on. As a Mohammedans magistrate, you were at first opposed to the Hindus but now you do not do anything to stop them. When you broke the mrdanga drum, you made some threats but when the chanting continued on the streets, you did not carry them out. I cannot understand why this change has come over you.

Kazi: Kindly listen, O Gaura Hari! Please come to a private place, I shall then explain.

Caitanya: Do not be afraid of these men, they are all My confidential associates, speak frankly.

Kazi: (a little hesitant) Well, when I went to the Hindu's street, broke the drum and forbade the congregational chanting, that very night I had a terrible dream. I saw a greatly fearful lion, roaring very loudly, His body like a human being and His face like a lion!

(As Lord Nrsinghadev:) "Kazi! Kazi!" he roared. "I shall immediately split your chest just
as you broke the mrdanga drum! You have forbidden the performance of My congregational

chanting, therefore, I must destroy you!

(Kazi closes his eyes and trembles.) I have defeated you just to teach you a lesson. On that day, you did not create a very great disturbance, therefore, I have excused you and not taken your life. But, if you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant. At that time, I shall kill you, your entire family and all the meat-eaters!! (roars)

After saying this, the lion left, but I was very much afraid of Him! Just see the marks of His nails on my heart!

(Kazi rips open his shirt to show the long, red nail marks of Lord Nrsinghadev. Everyone is amazed except for Lord Caitanya.)

I know now that You are the Supreme Lord, Narayana Himself. Only by Your mercy have my bad intentions vanished. Kindly favor me so that my devotion will always be fixed upon You. Please accept me as Your servant.

Caitanya: (Pleased, Lord Caitanya touches the kazi.) The chanting of the Holy Name from your mouth has performed a wonder. It has nullified the reactions of your many sins. Now, you have become supremely pure.

I wish to beg you for one favor in charity. You must pledge that this Sankirtan movement will never again be stopped by you, at least not in the district of Nadia.

Kazi: To as many descendants as take birth in my dynasty in the future, I give this grave admonition: No one shall check this Sankirtan Movement!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! (kirtan)

Lord Caitanya and the Kazi 3 - Lord Caitanya's Civil Disobedience Movement

Introduction

A Merchant enters the stage and mimes the selling of his wares. A thief comes up from behind him, holds him at the point of a knife, steals his money and knocks him down.

Next, a drunkard staggers on with his bottle in hand and collapses.

Finally, a cow enters and peacefully grazes. A butcher approaches with an axe and knocks down the cow.

Nimai Pandit, displaying great love and compassion, approaches the three areas of decadence and revives the battered and bewildered characters, who resolve their differences by embraces and dandavats.

Scene One B The Palace of the Chand Kazi

(The kazi, Muslim Governor, is sitting on his throne and three Smarta Brahmanas stand before him. The kazi's servant stands to his right side.)

1st Smarta: Chand Kazi, there is something peculiar going on in the town of Navadvip and if something is not done about it soon, then I don't know what will happen! It is this chanting of Hare Krsna Y not that there is anything, per se, wrong with chanting the names
of God! Of course, occasionally we do observe a religious ritual by singing and dancing and playing musical instruments, but all within reason! That is part of our Hindu tradition, but it is the way in which it is done, the place, the time and the people who are doing it that disturbs us. Do you realize that untouchables are chanting these mantras? This alone will bring disaster to the town!

Kazi: How is that?

2nd Smarta: Let me explain, Your Greatness. Please excuse me for saying this, Your Excellency, Chand Kazi, but since you are Muslim, you may not be familiar with our Hindhu theology and procedures.

Kazi: Go on.

2nd Smarta: Mantras and Vedic hymns are to be uttered only by the higher classes, especially the brahmanas. If the religious fanatics start giving these mantras to the untouchables, then this sinful act will bring great misfortune to the entire district! The karma will be overwhelming - famine, disease, pestilence!!

3rd Smarta: Right now, our entire Hindu religion is being undermined because, according to our scriptures, mantras are the most powerful representation of God. If these mantras are distributed everywhere, then the power of the mantras will be lost.

Kazi: Who are these brahmanas that are instigating this?

1st Smarta: It is one brahmana mainly, the son of Jagannath Misra.

2nd Smarta: Nimai Pandit is His name, although some call Him Gaurahari, or Caitanya, Your Excellency.

Kazi: Hmmmm, Gaurahari? And how do His followers conduct this chanting?

3rd Smarta: Let me tell you - it is really bizarre to see! You see, when we Hindus keep a nightlong vigil for worshiping the gods and goddesses, playing on musical instruments, dancing and chanting are fitting customs, but this loud chanting that goes on deafens our ears!! They do it all different times, and at night we can't get any sleep! All night we hear "Haribol! Haribol!"

2nd Smarta: Sometimes they become absolutely hysterical - jumping in the air, laughing, rolling on the ground and, crying loudly, they embrace one another! This is going on between mixed castes! It is total insanity.

Kazi: Gentlemen, you are all Hindus by birth, I am just
surprised that you have come here to complain against others who practice the same Hindu religion as you do.

1st Smarta: Your honor, we are real Hindus but this Nimai Pandit has introduced the Sankirtan Movement, which we have never heard of from our scriptures.

2nd Smarta: At night, we can't get any sleep, we are always kept awake. He has spoiled the Hindu religion! He has gotten the lower classes of men to chant the Hare Krsna mantra again and again. In this way, if the common men take to chanting, the power of God's name will be polluted!

3rd Smarta: This Nimai Pandit was formerly a very nice boy, but since He has returned from Gaya, He conducts Himself differently, Your Reverence. Now, He loudly sings all kinds of songs B clapping, playing drums and hand cymbals and making tumultuous sounds that deafen our ears! He sometimes dances, sings, laughs, cries, falls down and rolls on the ground and jumps in the air! He has made all the people practically mad by always performing congregational chanting! He used to be a fine boy, a teacher of Grammar, but now -well, it must be something He eats, Your Excellency.

1st Smarta: I also suspect that they drink wine and womanize while they chant in their different dwellings!

Kazi: (surprised) Is that so!?

1st Smarta: Sir, you are the ruler of this district; whether Hindu or Muslim, everyone is under your protection. We are begging you to stop this frivolous chanting and make Nimai Pandita leave the town immediately.

2nd Smarta: Please make this Nimai Pandita leave town before it is deserted!
(Two Mohammedan Meat Eaters enter in an angry mood, and they greet the kazi.)

1st Meateater: (bowing, with hand gesture from forehead) A salaam alaikum.

Kazi: (with same gesture) Alaikum a salaam.
(to the Meat Eaters) Please excuse me for one moment, my friends. **(to Smarta Brahmins)** Anyway, gentlemen, I sympathize with you, but after all, the chanting is mainly going on in the private houses of the Vaishnavas and, as long as they keep it to themselves in that way, I really can't object too much. Now, good day, gentlemen!
(This reply doesn't please the Smartas but they start to leave, then loiter to hear what the Meat-Eaters have to say.)

1st Meateater: Sir, this time the Hindus have gone too far! They are becoming too bold. If you don't curb them, the King will punish you!

Kazi: What do you mean? What has happened?

1st Meateater: What has happened?! The worst possible thing! The Hindus are starting an uprising!

Kazi: What! That's impossible! Why, ever since the days of the conquering Muslim hero, Vaktiyara Khiliji, the Hindus in Bengal have been severely suppressed by us! Practically, none of them have been able to practice their religion freely. In fact, they have almost forgotten their own religious principles, just like those two Hindus who were just here.

2nd Meateater: Well, from what we saw today in the market places and streets of Navadvip, it appears that they are fast to remember those principles. Yes, today in the market place we saw the Hindus gathered, chanting the names of their God. They were making a tumultuous sound and seemed completely fearless. We hear that it is the work of this One they call Gaura Hari!

Kazi: You mean to say that they were actually performing their chanting in the streets? Why, this is amazing! They've always been such a bunch of cowards, practically like sheep under our thumbs. How can this be?

1st Meateater: You had better ask yourself how to stop it before the king hears of this.

2nd Meateater: You know how cruel he is, if he hears of this he will have your head for being too lenient with the Hindus!
(Both Smarta Brahmins have come back into the room after hearing the news.)

1st Smarta: So now, my dear kazi, it seems as though Nimai's men are no longer content with chanting in their own homes. I think that it is time for you to put a stop to this once and for all!!

Kazi: (brooding) Yes, I think you're right. Tell me, where could I find Nimai Pandita? At the Misra's residence?

2nd Smarta: Perhaps at the home of Srivasa Thakur, Your Mercifulness. That is where they chant all night long.

Kazi: Have no fear, I will take care of this matter. You should expect no

more disturbances, from hereon.

All: Thank you, thank you!

Scene Two - The House of Srivasa Thakur

(Loud kirtan is going on at the house of Srivas Thakur. Lord Caitanya is not present. The kazi arrives and shouts for them to stop, but they do not take notice of him due to the kirtan. Then he violently breaks one of the drums, and the devotees stop the kirtan, shocked and dismayed.)

Kazi:(loudly) For so long you did not follow the regulative principles of the Hindu religion but now you are following them with great enthusiasm. May I know by whose strength you are doing so? Who is responsible for this? **(silence)** Where is Srivasa Thakur? **(Srivasa Thakur steps forward.)**

Srivasa Thakur: Here, sir.

Kazi: Where is Gaurahari, the son of Jagannath Misra?

Srivasa Thakur: He is not here at present.

Kazi: Then give Him my message - I want no more of this chanting in the streets of Navadvip; it is a nuisance. No one should perform Sankirtan on the streets of the city! Today, I am excusing the offense and returning home. I will leave this place knowing that I am perfectly understood.

Srivasa Thakur: Yes, of course, I will tell Him.

Kazi: And, you may add this - if, in the future, I shall see someone performing this loud chanting, I shall not only confiscate all of his property but I shall also convert him into a Mohammedan by forcing him to eat meat!!!
(With that the kazi exits and the devotees stand around very dejected.)

Srivasa Thakur: There is nothing like the Name of Lord Hari for freeing the world from its bonds of misconception and sin. This chanting has arisen like the sun, which dispels all darkness and dissipates illusion. It is sad that few people can appreciate the light and warmth that comes from the Holy Names.

Devotee: Srivasa Thakur, what will we do now?

Srivasa Thakur: We will take the problem up with our Lord, Sri Gaurahari. Let's all go to Him, immediately.
(They leave.)

Scene Three - Lord Caitanya's Room

(The Supreme Lord, Gaurahari, is speaking, other devotees listen attentively or sing responsively to a Bengali Bhajan.)

Srivasa Thakur: O Gaurahari, we have some unfortunate news.

Caitanya: What can be unfortunate, Srivasa?

Srivasa Thakur: We were conducting our chanting as usual, in my home, when we were interrupted by a very angry Chand Kazi.

2nd Devotee: (brings forward the broken mrdanga. He hands the broken mrdanga to the Lord, Who looks at it with concern.)

Caitanya: The kazi has done this?

2nd Devotee: (nods sadly) Yes.

Srivasa: He said if we don't give up our chanting, he would take away all our property and make us into Mohammedans!!

Caitanya: Nonsense! You are all eternal devotees of Lord Krsna. Go and perform Sankirtan! Tonight, I shall kill all the Mohammedans!!
(The devotees begin a timid kirtan, looking apprehensively about for the kazi. Lord Caitanya watches with great concern.They all leave. Music)

Scene Four B Lord Caitanya's Room

Nityananda: I would go to every house in the Hindu section and when the householder came to his door, I would fall down at his feet and cry,"Please, I beg you! Just always chant the Holy Names Hare Krsna and depend upon Him!" Hardly a gentleman refused me and so, in this way, many fallen souls were saved today!

Caitanya: Jai Sri Krsna! This is wonderful! Please keep this door to door program going! Now, tell me, how is the chanting party doing, is it still going out daily into the market places and streets of the city?

Haridas: My dear Lord, the chanting party is going out as You ordered, but the devotees' minds are full of anxiety. Ever since the kazi came and broke the drum, the devotees have been afraid, and so, they cannot perform the Sankirtan very blissfully!

Caitanya: I see. Then you should immediately call all of the citizens together. I shall personally perform Sankirtan in each and every town this evening! Therefore, you should all decorate the city very nicely.
We will not be discouraged. We cannot be tolerant of those who try to obstruct the chanting. We will fight back, but not by lifting a single weapon. Armed with karatals and drums, we will hold a kirtan with a very large chanting party. Torches will light our way and the Holy Names will be our shield. Summon Advaita Acharya and Haridas Thakur. We will cover every street, every nook and corner of Navadvip and reach our destiny - the palace of Chand Kazi.

All: (very blissfully) Jai Mahaprahu! Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

Scene Five - Lord Caitanya's Civil Disobedience Movement

(kirtan tape plays in background)

Caitanya: How many people have come for the kirtan?

Srivas: By your command, at least one hundred thousand will join us before we reach the house of the kazi.

Caitanya: Jai! Hari Bol! I shall give everyone protection. Let us see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan now!
(Lord Caitanya begins a kirtan and the party moves out of view. When they come out again, their ranks have swelled. If possible, they should hold a few torches. Several tapes of kirtans should be played in background to indicate that other parties are converging on the kazi's house.)

Caitanya: Do not disturb this respectable gentleman's property. We have come for friendly talks. I will sit here by the door and you older men go and inform the kazi that I have come to converse with him.

Scene Six - The Muslim Governor's Office

(Kirtan is heard offstage as Kazi enters)

Kazi: (to servant) Can you get me some milk?

Servant: Milk, sir? I could get you something a little harder ...

Kazi: Milk. I understand it calms one's nerves. I've had a most trying day Y much to consider Y

Servant: Alrighty, then - I'll go find you some milk, sir.
(Servant leaves. Kazi paces back and forth. An Orderly on the staff of the Kazi enters. Servant returns with milk and cups.)

Kazi: (to Orderly) Here, take this milk.

Orderly: I don't drink milk.

Kazi: It calms the nerves. **(hands Orderly a glass of milk)** Go on, try it.
(They both drink milk.)

Orderly: It does calm the nerves! Hmmmm Y

Kazi: (kirtan is louder) Now, what happened?

Orderly: That's them again - that's the chanting!
(looks out the window with Chand Kazi)
They're coming this way! Do you think they are coming to see us?

Kazi: Probably.

Orderly: There are thousands of them! Maybe they will just pass by and leave us alone. Oh, I can't look!
(He squeezes his eyes shut and trembles.) Are they passing by?

Kazi: It doesn't look like it.
(The Orderly opens his eyes.)

Orderly: O Allah, they're trampling over your garden!

Kazi: Oh no! I see them coming! Roaring and angry! Guards! Protect the walls! I must hide! Oh, Lord! They are breaking down the walls and destroying the gardens! You greet them at the door.
(Kazi retreats to end of stage, as if hiding.)

Orderly: Me!?

Kazi: I'll greet them if the noise subsides.
(Kazi disappears. Srivas Thakur and others knock on the door to the kazi's palace.)

Orderly: (answers door) Hello, you're not looking for the Kazi, are you? Oh, I'm sorry but he's not here. Good day.
(He shuts the door. The devotees knock again. Orderly answers again.) I told you Y

Srivasa: We come in peace. Please summon the Kazi. Our Nimai Pandit wishes to debate with him. He will not leave until He sees the Kazi.
(Kazi approaches Srivasa Thakur. The elder devotees return with the kazi, who appears very afraid and reluctant. Lord Caitanya calms the crowd and stops the kirtan.)

Caitanya: (in a friendly way) Good evening, Chand Kazi, I am Caitanya.

Kazi: Namaste, Sadhuji!

Caitanya: Sir, I have come to your house as a guest, but upon seeing me, you hid yourself in your room. What kind of etiquette is this?

Kazi: (defensively) You came to my house in a very angry mood. I did not come to meet You immediately, just to pacify You. But, now that You are pacified, we can talk freely. Actually, You are just like my nephew, because Your grandfather, Nilambhara Cakravarti, was just like an uncle to me in the village where I was a boy. If a nephew is angry, his uncle should be tolerant and similarly, when an uncle commits an offense, the nephew should not take it very seriously.

Caitanya: You are quite right, my dear "Uncle." I have just come to your home to ask some questions about the Muslin faith.

Kazi: And You are welcome here! Now, tell me B just what is on Your mind?
(The servant and orderly bring mats ab\nd they both sit.)

Scene Seven - The Debate

Caitanya: My dear "uncle", You drink cow's milk, therefore the cow is like

your mother. The bull produces grains for your maintenance, therefore the bull is like you father. So tell me, what kind of religion is this you practice that allows you to kill your mother and father and eat them?

Kazi: Why, just as You have Your scriptures, we have ours, known as the Holy Koran. In the Koran, there is a regulation for killing cows and if such killing is done under the guidance of scripture, there is no sin.

Caitanya: No! The Vedas clearly say that cows should not be killed. Therefore, the Hindus do not engage in cow killing. However, there is a Vedic injunction which says that if a person is able to revive a living entity, then he can kill it and bring it back to life for experimental purposes. Therefore, the great sages sometimes killed animals and brought them back to life by chanting the Vedic hymns, just to prove the power of the Vedas. But now, there are no brahmanas with such powers and so, in this age, such arts are strictly forbidden.

In this age of Kali, five acts are forbidden: the offering of a cow in sacrifice, the offering of a horse in sacrifice, the acceptance of the order of sanyassa, the offering of oblations of flesh to the forefathers and a man's begetting children by his brother's wife.

Since you Mohammedans can not bring a dead animal back to life, you are responsible for killing that animal. Therefore, you are going to hell; there is no way for your deliverance. Cow killers are condemned to rot in hell for as many thousands of years as there are hairs on the body of the cow they kill.

Kazi: There are many such mistakes in our scriptures. Their compilers, not knowing the essence of knowledge, gave orders against all reason and argument.

Caitanya: My dear, uncle, I wish to ask you another question. Recently, in your city, there is always congregational chanting of the Holy Name going on. As a Mohammedan magistrate, you were at first opposed to the Hindus but now you do not do anything to stop them. When you broke the mrdanga drum, you made some threats but when the chanting continued on the streets, you did not carry them out. I cannot understand why this change has come over you.

Kazi: Kindly listen, O Gaura Hari! Please come to a private place, I shall then explain.

Caitanya: Do not be afraid of these men, they are all My confidential associates, speak frankly.

Kazi: (a little hesitant) Well, when I went to the Hindu's street, broke the drum and forbade the congregational chanting, that very night I had a terrible dream. I saw a greatly fearful lion, roaring very loudly, His body like a human being and His face like a lion!
(The spotlight shifts to a second scene where someone dressed to look like the kazi is lying down. Suddenly, Lord Nrsinghdev appears, roaring loudly. He places his nails on the chest of the "kazi.")

Nrsinghadev: I shall immediately split your chest just as you broke

the mrdanga drum! You have forbidden the performance of **My** congregational chanting, therefore, I must destroy you!
(Kazi 2 closes his eyes and trembles.)
I have defeated you just to teach you a lesson. On that day, you did not create a very great disturbance, therefore, I have excused you and not taken your life. But, if you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant. At that time, I shall kill you, your entire family and all the meat-eaters!! **(roars)**
(The spotlight shifts back to the scene of the kazi and Lord Caitanya conversing.)

Kazi: After saying this, the lion left, but I was very much afraid of Him! Just see the marks of His nails on my heart!
(Kazi rips open his shirt to show the long, red nail marks of Lord Nrsinghadev. Everyone is amazed except for Lord Caitanya.) I did not speak to anyone about this, but the next day, one of my orderlies came to see me:
(spotlight shifts to second scene where Kazi 2 sits in deep thought.)

Orderly: Your honor, this morning I saw the Hindus again chanting in the street against your order but when I attempted to stop them, suddenly flames struck my face! My beard was burned and there were blisters on my cheeks. Others had the same experience.

Kazi 2: (fearful) Do not try to stop the chanting anymore! Just return to your homes and sit down. **(orderly exits)**

1st Meateater: Hari! Hari! **(throwing his hands up in anguish)** Now there will always be unrestricted chanting of Krsna! Krsna! In the streets! The religion of the Hindus will increase unlimitedly. KRSNA! Krsna! That's all we can hear anymore!

2nd Meateater: We are becoming deaf from this Hari Hari! Krsna! Hari Bol!

(He chants and the other Meateater joins him.)

Both: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Kazi 2: Enough! Enough! I know that the Hindus chant Hari and Krsna, for those are the Names of their God. But, why do you two Mohammedan Meateaters also chant?

1st Meateater: (embarrassed) I don't know! I used to imitate them and joke with them but now my tongue can't stop saying Hari! Hari! Krsna Krsna Krsna Krsna! We have no desire to say it but we cannot help ourselves! I don't know what kind of magic these Hindus practice! I don't know what to do!

2nd Meateater: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare

1st Meateater: Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

Kazi 2: (comforting them) There now, don't worry, it will probably pass in time. Just go home and rest. I'm sure you will forget these names before long.
(to himself) What will happen next? It seems that this Hare Krsna Movement cannot be stopped!
(The Meat Eaters leave, still chanting. The spotlight shifts to the conversation between Lord Caitanya and the kazi.)

Kazi: I know now that You are the Supreme Lord, Narayana Himself.

Caitanya: (Pleased, Lord Caitanya touches the kazi.) The chanting of the Holy Name from your mouth has performed a wonder. It has nullified the reactions of your many sins. Now, you have become supremely pure.

Kazi: Only by Your mercy have my bad intentions completely vanished. Kindly favor me so that my devotion will always be fixed upon You.

Caitanya: I wish to beg you for one favor in charity. You must pledge that this Sankirtan Movement will never again be stopped by you, at least not in the district of Nadia.

Kazi: To as many descendants as take birth in my dynasty in the future, I give this grave admonition: No one shall check this Sankirtan Movement!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! **(kirtan)**

Lord Caitanya and the Kazi 4 - Lord Caitanya Defeats Chand Kazi

SCENE ONE - the Office of the Muslim Magistrate

Kazi: What a day! What a day! Do you know, my own barber cut me twice while he was shaving me this morning!?! Twice!! He's lucky I'm so tolerant! I know other kazis who would have had him beaten! Then, a crazy camel spit om me! Yukkh! And, after that, for the rest of the morning, I had to listen to two men arguing over who stole a donkey! I know what I'll do, I'll sneak out of here and hide in my garden 'til after lunch. No one will find me there.

1st Muslim: Chand Kazi, O noble kazi! Please hear the complaint of this unworthy beggar!

Kazi: Oh no, now what? Maybe I'll just pretend that I don't hear him.
(hums a tune as he walks on)

2nd Muslim: Chand Kazi! Wait! We must speak to you!

Kazi: Oh no, not two of them! Now, I'll never get away!

1st Muslim: Chand Kazi, you must do something about these Hindus. Hare Krsna!

Kazi: Which Hindus are you referring to? Please explain yourselves.

1st Muslim: The Hindus who are on the streets chanting all the time. Hari! Hari! Hare Krsna! They are making a terrible disturbance, Your Excellency. All day they chant Krsna! Krsna! Krsna!

2nd Muslim: Hare Krsna That's right, Excellency, they chant, they laugh, they cry, they fall on the ground! They are acting like crazy people!

Both: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Kazi: Yes, yes. I am sure the effect is temporary. Go home and take rest. Good day!
(They leave.)
Now, who could this be? It looks like two of those pompous, old Hindu priests. Smart Guys, I think they call them.

Smarta: Honored Kazi, will you grant me an audience?

Kazi: Come forward.

Smarta: Sir, You must do something about this Nimai Pandit.

Kazi: You don't like Him, either? But, I thought He was one of your religion.

Smarta: Not at all, honored Sir; quite the opposite. I represent the Brahmin community and it is our opinion that Nimai Pandit is destroying religious principles with His Sankirtan Movement. Indeed! A priest should stay at home and study scripture. He should be serious. But, this Nimai Pandit spends His day singing in the streets with His followers and dancing like a madman!

Kazi: That doesn't sound so bad. (to audience) It sounds better than sitting here all day listening to people complaining!

Smarta: You don't understand, Honorable Sir, these Names of God make up the most powerful prayer in the world! Only special people should chant it, people who have had proper training.

Kazi: People like yourself, I suppose.

Smarta: Well, yes ... But, Nimai Pandit is giving it to everyone, even to the lower classes! If everyone starts to chant it, the potency will be lost!

Kazi: (to himself) For so long, the Hindus did not seem to care much for their own religion, yet now they appear to be following with great enthusiasm! I wonder what this person is like who has inspired them so!

2nd Smarta:I tell you, Excellency, this Nimai Pandit, who, incidentally, allows his followers to call Him Lord Caitanya and even Gaura Hari, is making all the townspeople go mad! They wildly chant at the top of their voices clashing cymbals, pounding drums and blowing on horns and conch shells! We can't get any sleep. Can't you hear it from here? I think I still hear it now, it's hard to say ... Hare Krsna!!

Smarta: That's right, we're going mad!

2nd Smarta: We're not going mad.

Smarta: We're not?

2nd Smarta: No! Nimai Pandit is mad.

Smarta: Who is He mad at?

2nd Smarta: Oh, never mind!

Smarta: Please protect our religious principles, sir! Bring peace again to our streets, Your Excellency!

2nd Smarta: Make Nimai Pandit leave town!

Kazi: I appreciate that you have brought this serious matter to my attention. Since Nimai Pandit and His followers are disturbing both the Muslims and h alike, I will put a stop to His activities. Where is my servant?

Servant: Here, Your Excellency.

Kazi: I want this order sent throughout the streets of Nadia. "Let it be known that I, the Chand Kazi, from this day, forbid the chanting in the streets of this city by Nimai Pandit or any of His followers."

Servant: At once, Your Excellency! (Servant leaves.) Well, that should do it! Good day, everyone! Go home now, yes ... (Visitors leave.) The rest of my day should be peaceful, at least. Perhaps, I'll go out into my garden now and have a little nap! Humph!

SCENE TWO Kirtan

(Opens with a roaring kirtan party. After some time, the kazi, the magistrate, enters flamboyantly with the Two Muslims.)

Kazi: I myself will put an end to this madness! You there! (pointing) Stop playing that drum! Stop this chanting! Stop! (Devotees don't hear the kazi! The kazi attacks one drummer and takes the drum away from him.) I ordered you to stop this pounding! Now take this! (He hurls the drum to the ground.) BANG! There! Ha Ha! (Kirtan stops. The devotees are afraid.) I warned you once what would happen if you persisted in this crazy religion of yours; now I will tell you for the last time! (Shouting, livid with anger) If I ever catch your leader Nimai Pandit or any of you making this noise again, every one of you, do you hear - all of you (sweeping his hand) I will take away your property and make you become Muslims by forcing you to eat meat! (They leave.)

Muslims 1&2: (sneering) Ha Ha! We fixed you!

SCENE THREE - That Night

(The kazi enters in his bedclothes, yawns and clambers into his bed, covers himself and falls asleep. The lights are dim. Lord Nrshingadev enters suddenly and wakes the kazi with His loud roaring. The kazi awakens terrified.)

Nrsinghadev: (very deep and loud) Kazi! Kazi! Now I can rid this world of you! You have offended the pure devotees; now you shall always suffer in Hell!

Kazi: (screaming) Guards! Guards! Help!

Nrsinghadev: I shall immediately rip apart your chest, just as you did to that mrdanga drum today! You have forbidden the performances of My congregational chanting; therefore, I must destroy you!

Kazi: Nooooo!! My dear Lord, Please, give me one more chance! I surrender unto You! I am Your servant!

Nrsinghadev: Very well! Because you are surrendered, I cannot kill you!! But, hear me, if you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant! At that time, I shall kill you, your entire family and all the Meat Eaters!!! (Lord Nrsinghadev roars; kazi trembles. Lights go out. Lord Nrsinghadev quickly disappears. Lights go back on and brighten.)

Kazi: Ahhhh,, morning at last! What a terrible dream! Let me forget it! I want nothing to do with this horrible Sankirtan Movement ever again! (Kazi gets up walks about, changes to his official clothes and goes to his desk or throne. Servant runs in, very panic stricken!)

Servant: Chand Kazi! You must stop this chanting of Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare! When I went to stop the congregational chanting today, as you yourself had ordered, suddenly flames struck my face! The flames came out of nowhere; my beard was burned and there are blisters on my cheeks!

Kazi: I don't believe it! Get out of here at once, you crazy fellow! This movement is nothing, I tell you! It can't last!

Meateater: Sir, I represent the Meat Eaters and we are disturbed! All day long we do not hear anything but this chanting! Indeed, we ourselves now always say this at every moment. Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!!!

Kazi: These Hindus chant Hare Krsna and they smile, cry, dance and fall on the ground, smearing their bodies with dirt because that is the name of their God. But, you are a Muslim Meat

Eater, why do you also chant!

Meateater: Hari! Hari! Sir, one day I was joking with the Hindus (He chants Hare Krsna mantra in a funny voice as if teasing a child). Since that day my tongue always vibrates the sound Hare! and Krsna! I have no desire to say it, but still, my tongue always says it. Hari! Hari! I do not know what to do! I do not know what mystic hymns and herbal potions these Hindus know!

Kazi: (to himself) Oh no! What shall I do? What have I done! This Sankirtan Movement appears to be unstoppable!
(Hurriedly, embarrassed) Uh, yes! Rest assured, my dear Meat Eaters, that I am making a thorough investigation of this problem! Now, good day! Goodbye! Out! Get out!
(They exit with loud sorrowful chanting.)

1st Meateater: Hari! Hari! (throwing his hands up in anguish) Now there will always be unrestricted chanting of Krsna! Krsna! In the streets! The religion of the Hindus will increase unlimitedly. KRSNA! Krsna! That's all we can hear anymore!

2nd Meateater: We are becoming deaf from this Hari Hari! Krsna! Hari Bol!
(chants and the other Meateater joins him.)

Both: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

2nd Meateater: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare

1st Meateater: Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

Kazi: Gentlemen, thank you for coming! I shall certainly put an end to all these unnatural occurrences, Go home now and rest. This Sankirtan Movement is a temporary phenomenom at best. It has no real potency. Go home, go on, good day!
(Everyone leaves except Chand Kazi who paces thoughtfully.)

Whew! What a day! I thought they'd never leave! What wonderful pastimes are happening here in Nadia? I feel uplifted, somehow! Who is this Gaura Hari? Is there something glorious about this mantra:

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(He continues to chant quietly to himself with eyes closed blissfully.)

Narrator: And so, after duly rendering their complaints, the Mohammedans and caste Brahmins returned home thinking that the Kazi was intent on fulfilling their desires to stop the congregational chanting of the Holy Names. But the Kazi, although originally against the chanting, had become completely purified by several times chanting the Holy Names of Krsna. Such is the great potency of the Lord's Holy Names.

SCENE FOUR Lord Caitanya's Civil Disobedience

Devotee: Oh, Lord Caitanya, please help us! The Chand Kazi came yesterday to the town square and disrupted the kirtan. He even broke a drum and ordered us to never chant Hare Krsna again! If we

disobey his order he threatened to take away all our property and turn us into Muslims by forcing us to eat meat! The chanting is going on today, as you have ordered, but the devotees are worried for sake of their families! Everyone is afraid!

Caitanya: The Kazi does not understand. No one can check this Hare Krsna Sankirtan Movement. I will pay a visit to this Chand Kazi at his house and make him understand that our only desire is to glorify the One Supreme Lord of everyone! If he can understand this, he will have no objection to our Sankirtan Movement! Go now and organize many huge Hari Nama parties from all parts of the city. Tell them to bring torches from their homes and meet Me on the roadway Let us see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan!

Devotees: Jai! Hari Bol! (Kirtan)

SCENE FIVE The Kazi's House

Caitanya: How many people have come for the kirtan?

Devotee: By your command, at least one hundred thousand will join us before we reach the house of the kazi.

Caitanya: Jai! Hari Bol! Let us see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan now!
(Lord Caitanya begins a kirtan and the party moves out of view. When they come out again, their ranks have swelled. If possible, they should hold a few torches. Several tapes of kirtans should be played in background to indicate that other parties are converging on the kazi's house. The kazi comes on but he appears to be very afraid and wanting to hide. He runs off.)

Kazi: Oh no! I see them coming! Roaring and angry! Guards! Protect the walls! I must hide! Oh, Lord! They are breaking down the walls and destroying the gardens!
(Kazi disappears.)

Caitanya: Do not disturb this respectable gentleman's property. We have come for friendly talks. I will sit here by the door and you older men go and inform the kazi that I have come to converse with him.
(Lord Caitanya calms the crowd and stops the kirtan. The devotees go offstage and in a few moments they return with the kazi, who appears very afraid and reluctant.)

Caitanya: (in a friendly way) Good evening, Chand Kazi, I am Caitanya.

Kazi: Namaste, Sadhuji!

Caitanya: Sir, I have come to your house as a guest, but upon seeing me, you hid yourself in your room. What kind of etiquette is this?

Kazi: (defensively) You came to my house in a very angry mood. I did not come to meet You immediately, just to pacify You. But, now that You are pacified, we can talk freely. Actually, You are just like my nephew, because Your grandfather, Nilambhara Cakravarti was just like an uncle to me in the village where I was a boy. If a nephew is angry, his uncle should be tolerant and similarly, when an uncle commits an offense, the nephew should not take it very seriously.

Caitanya: You are quite right, my dear "Uncle." I have just come to your home to ask some questions about the Muslin faith.

Kazi: And You are welcome here! Now, tell me - just what is on Your mind?

Caitanya: My dear "uncle", You drink cow's milk, therefore the cow is like your mother. The bull

produces grains for your maintenance. What kind of religion do you practice that allows you to kill your mother and father and eat them?

Kazi: Why, just as You have Your scriptures, we have ours, known as the Holy Koran. In the Koran, there is a regulation for killing cows and if such killing is done under the guidance of scripture, there is no sin.

Caitanya: No! The Vedas clearly say that cows should not be killed. Therefore, the Hindus do not engage in cow killing.entity, then he can kill it and bring it back to life experimental purposes. Therefore, the great sages sometimes killed animals and brought them back to life by chanting the Vedic hymns, just to prove the power of the Vedas. But now, there are no brahmanas with such powers and so, in this age, such arts are strictly forbidden.

In this age of Kali, five acts are forbidden: the offering of a cow in sacrifice, the offering of a horse in sacrifice, the acceptance of the order of sanyassa, the offering of oblations of flesh to the forefathers and a man's begetting children by his brother's wife.

Since you Mohammedans can not bring a dead animal back to life, you are responsible for killing that animal. Therefore, you are going to hell; there is no way for your deliverance. Cow killers are condemned to rot in hell for as many thousands of years as there are hairs on the body of the cow.

Kazi: There are many such mistakes in our scriptures. Their compilers, not knowing the essence of knowledge, gave orders against all reason and argument.

Caitanya: My dear, uncle, I wish to ask you another question. Recently, in your city, there is always congregational chanting of the Holy Name going on. As a Mohammedan magistrate, you were at first opposed to the Hindus but now you do not do anything to stop them. When you broke the mrdanga drum, you made some threats but when the chanting continued on the streets, you did not carry them out. I cannot understand why this change has come over you.

Kazi: Kindly listen, O Gaura Hari! Please come to a private place, I shall then explain.

Caitanya: Do not be afraid of these men, they are all My confidential associates, speak frankly.

Kazi: (a little hesitant) Well, when I went to the Hindu's street, broke the drum and forbade the congregational chanting, that very night I had a terrible dream. I saw a greatly fearful lion, roaring very loudly, His body like a human being and His face <u>like a lion</u>! Roaring loudly. He placed His nails on my chest!! He said to me: "I shall immediately split your chest just as you broke the mrdanga drum! You have forbidden the performance of My congregational chanting, therefore, I must destroy you! (Kazi closes his eyes and trembles.) If you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant. At that time, I shall kill you, your entire family and all the meat-eaters!! (roars)

After saying this, the lion left, but I was very much afraid of Him! Just see the marks of His nails on my heart!

(Kazi rips open his shirt to show the long, red nail marks of Lord Nrsinghadev. Everyone is amazed except for Lord Caitanya.)

I know now that You are the Supreme Lord, Narayana Himself and I take shelter of You.

Caitanya: (Pleased, Lord Caitanya touches the kazi.) The chanting of the Holy Name from Your mouth has performed a wonder. It has nullified the reactions of your many sins. Now, you have become supremely pure.

Kazi: Only by Your mercy have my bad intentions vanished. Kindly favor me so that my devotion will always be fixed upon You.

Caitanya: I wish to beg you for one favor in charity. You must pledge that this Sankirtan Movement will never again be stopped by you, at least not in the district of Nadia.

Kazi: To as many descendants as take birth in my dynasty in the future, I give this grave admonition: No one shall check this Sankirtan Movement!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! (kirtan)

Lord Caitanya and the Kazi 5 - Lord Caitanya Enlightens the Chand Kazi

SCENE ONE- Kirtan in the Streets of Navadvip, W Bengal

Narrator: Five hundred years ago, in W. Bengal, India, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu propagated the Sankirtan Movement, the chanting of the Holy Names of Lord Krsna. Every day, Sri Caitanya would order His devotees to go out into the streets and chant the Holy Name in order to purify and attract the hearts of all. However, the Chand Kazi, who represented the Muslim Emperor who ruled India at that time, tried to put an end to the activities of the devotees. In his attempt, he met with some very interesting and enlightening experiences.

Caitanya: Everyone chant Hare Krsna! **Caitanya: Everyone chant Hare Krsna!**

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

(Kirtan intensifies. Two Smarta Brahmins and two Muslims come on and express their dislike of the kirtan. They make large, comical gestures.)

Narrator: In the Caitanya Caritamrta it is stated that although the non-believers did not understand the potency of the Holy Name, they often chanted the Holy Name by joking with the devotees or even criticizing them. But, this was actually beneficial. It is called the Namabhasa stage. In this stage, one gradually awakens remembrance of Lord Vishnu. (Muslims pantomime the chanting and dancing of the devotees in a joking way.)

Also, many Hindus at that time foolishly considered the chanting of the names of demigod and the Names of Lord Krsna to be on an equal level. Also, because the Smarta Brahmins were proud of their birth in the highest class in society, they thought that only highly trained Brahmins could chant the Holy Names.

1st Muslim: My dear Brahmins, why are these Hindus making so much noise?? They sure look funny! (calls mockingly) Hey, Hare Krsnas - Hari Bol to you, too!!

Smarta Brahman: O Mohammedan gentlemen, they are chanting the Names of God, but factually only Hindus of Brahmana birth should chant these holy names. And certainly they should not chant so loudly or dance so wildly. If common people chant the Holy Names, then the potency is lost. This nonsense is all due to that crazy fanatic, Nimai Pandit! He has gathered so many followers by His unorthodox methods! Why don't you get them to stop? Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare Hare Krsna Hare Krsna (He covers his mouth to stop himself from chanting continuously.)

2nd Muslim: Yes! This unregulated chanting must be stopped. Let's go tell the magistrate, Chand Kazi. He will put an end to it! (They all leave.)

SCENE TWO Chand Kazi's House

Kazi: Welcome citizens, how may I serve you?
st Muslim: Some of the local Hindus are holding their religious ritual in the street. The caste Brahmins and others, including ourselves, are very upset.

Smarta Brahmana: It is true, honored Kazi. They are chanting Names of God publicly in a loud, wild fashion meant to attract the minds of the common people. This is against all of our sacred Hindu traditions!! Why, they chant all day and night and they fall down and roll in the dust! Hare Krsna!! Hari Bol! (He covers his mouth again.)

2nd Smarta: Nimai Pandit, their leader who allows His followers to call Him Gaura Hari, has disobeyed the Hindu scriptures with this Sankirtan Movement! Everyone is chanting this Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare, but according to scripture, if anyone hears this chanting of the Holy Name, it□s potency will be lost! I think I still hear it now, it□s hard to say ... Hare Krsna!!

Smarta: That□s right, we□re going mad!

2nd Smarta: We are not going mad.

Smarta: We□re not?

2nd Smarta: No! Nimai Pandit is mad.

Smarta: Who is He mad at?

2nd Smarta: Oh, never mind!

Smarta: We beg you to put a stop to this outrage. Protect our religious people and bring peace once again to our city streets!

1st Muslim: This Nimai Pandit must leave town!

Kazi: Thank you for bringing this to my attention. Since these followers of Nimai Pandit are disturbing both Muslims and Hindus alike, I shall put an end to this chanting. Yes, something must be done. We will go immediately. (Music)

SCENE THREE **SCENE THREE Kirtan**
(Opens with a roaring kirtan party. After some time, the kazi, the magistrate, enters

flamboyantly with the Two Muslims.)

Kazi: I myself will put an end to this madness! You there! (pointing) Stop playing that drum! Stop this chanting! Stop! (Devotees don't hear the kazi! The kazi attacks one drummer and takes the drum away from him.) I ordered you to stop this pounding! Now take this! (He hurls the drum to the ground.) BANG! There! Ha Ha! (Kirtan stops. The devotees are afraid.) I warned you once what would happen if you persisted in this crazy religion of yours; now I will tell you for the last time! (Shouting, livid with anger) If I ever catch your leader Nimai Pandit or any of you making this noise again, every one of you, do you hear - all of you (sweeping his hand) I will take away your property and make you become Muslims by forcing you to eat meat! (They leave.)

Muslims 1&2: (sneering) Ha Ha! We fixed you!

SCENE FOUR – That Night***SCENE FOUR - THAT NIGHT***

*(*The kazi enters in his bedclothes, yawns and clambers into his bed, covers himself and falls asleep. The lights are dim. Lord Nrshingadev enters suddenly and wakes the kazi with His loud roaring. The kazi awakens terrified.)

Nrsinghadev: (very deep and loud) Kazi! Kazi! Now I can rid this world of you! You have offended the pure devotees; now you shall always suffer in Hell!

Kazi: (screaming) Guards! Guards! Help!

Nrsinghadev: I shall immediately rip apart your chest, just as you did to that mrdanga drum today!
You have forbidden the performances of My congregational chanting; therefore, I must destroy
you!

Kazi: Nooooo!! My dear Lord, Please, give me one more chance! I surrender unto You! I am Your servant!

Nrsinghadev: Very well! Because you are surrendered, I cannot kill you!! But, hear me, if you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant! At that time, I shall killyou, your entire family and all the meat-eaters!!! (Lord Nrsinghadev qiickly disappears. Lights go back on and brighten.)

Kazi: Ahhhh,, morning at last! What a terrible dream! Let me forget it! I want nothing to do with
this horrible Sankirtan Movement ever again!
(Kazi gets up walks about, changes to his official clothes and goes to his desk or throne. Servant runs in, very panic stricken!)

Servant: Chand Kazi! You must stop this chanting of Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare

Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare! When I went to stop the congregational
chanting today, as you yourself had ordered, suddenly flames struck my face! The flames came
out of nowhere; my beard was burned and there are blisters on my cheeks!

Kazi: I don't believe it! Get out of here at once, you crazy fellow! This movement is nothing, I tell you! It can't last!

Meateater: Sir, I represent the Meat Eaters and we are disturbed! All day long we do not hear anything but this chanting! Indeed, we ourselves now always say this at every moment. Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!!!

Kazi: These Hindus chant Hare Krsna and they smile, cry, dance and fall on the ground, smearing their bodies with dirt because that is the name of their God. But, you are a Muslim Meat Eater, why do you also chant!

Meateater: Hari! Hari! Sir, one day I was joking with the Hindus (He chants Hare Krsna mantra in a funny voice as if teasing a child). Since that day my tongue always vibrates the sound "Hare!" and "Krsna!" I have no desire to say it, but still, my tongue always says it. Hari! Hari! I do not know what to do! I do not know what mystic hymns and herbal potions these Hindus know!

Kazi: (to himself) Oh no! What shall I do? What have I done! This Sankirtan Movement appears to be unstoppable!
(Hurriedly, embarrassed) Uh, yes! Rest assured, my dear Meat Eaters, that I am making a thorough investigation of this problem! Now, good day! Goodbye! Out! Get out!
(They exit with loud sorrowful chanting.)

1st Meateater: Hari! Hari! (throwing his hands up in anguish) Now, there will always be
unrestricted chanting of Krsna! Krsna! In the streets! The religion of the Hindus will increase
unlimitedly. KRSNA! Krsna! That's all we can hear anymore!

2nd Meateater: We are becoming deaf from this Hari Hari! Krsna! Hari Bol! (chants and the other Meateater joins him.)

Both: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

2nd Meateater: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare

1st Meateater: Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

Kazi: Gentlemen, thank you for coming! I shall certainly put an end to all these unnatural occurrences, Go home now and rest. This Sankirtan Movement is a temporary phenomenon only. I tell you – it can't last! (Everyone leaves except Chand Kazi who paces thoughtfully.)

Whew! What a day! I thought they'd never leave! What wonderful pastimes are Happening here in Nadia? I feel uplifted, somehow! Who is this Gaura Hari? Is there something glorious about this mantra?

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

(He continues to chant quietly to himself with eyes closed blissfully.)

Narrator: And so, after duly rendering their complaints, the Mohammedans and caste Brahmins returned home thinking that the Kazi was intent on fulfilling their desires to stop the congregational chanting of the Holy Names. But the Kazi, although originally against the chanting, had become completely purified by several times chanting the Holy Names of Krsna. Such is the great potency of the Lord's Holy Names.

SCENE FIVE Lord Caitanya's Civil Disobedience

Devotee: Oh, Lord Caitanya, please help us! The Chand Kazi came yesterday to the town square and disrupted the kirtan. He even broke a drum and ordered us to never chant Hare Krsna again! If we disobey his order he threatened to take away all our property and turn us into Muslims by forcing us to eat meat! The chanting is going on today, as you have ordered, but the devotees are worried for sake of their families! Everyone is afraid!

Caitanya: The Kazi does not understand. No one can check this Hare Krsna Sankirtan Movement. I will pay a visit to this Chand Kazi at his house and make him understand that our only desire is to glorify the One Supreme Lord of everyone! If he can understand this, he will have no objection to our Sankirtan Movement! Go now and organize many huge Hari Nama parties from all parts of the city. Tell them to bring torches from their homes and meet Me on the roadway Let us see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan!

Devotees: Jai! Hari Bol! (Kirtan)

SCENE SIX The Kazi□s House **SCENE SIX The Kazi?s House**

Caitanya: How many people have come for the kirtan? Caitanya: How many people have come for the kirtan? Caitanya: How many people have come for the kirtan?

Srivas: By your command, at least one hundred thousand will join us before we reach the house of the kazi.

Caitanya: Jai! Hari Bol! Let us see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan now!

(Lord Caitanya begins a kirtan and the party moves out of view. When they come out again, their ranks have swelled. If possible, they should hold a few torches. Several tapes of kirtans should be played in background to indicate that other parties are converging on the kazi□s house. The kazi comes on but he appears to be very afraid and wanting to hide. He runs off.)

Kazi: Oh no! I see them coming! Roaring and angry! Guards! Protect the walls! I must hide! Oh, Lord! They are breaking down the walls and destroying the gardens! (Kazi disappears.)

Caitanya: Do not disturb this respectable gentleman's property. We have come for friendly talks. I will sit here by the door and you older men go and inform the kazi that I have come to converse with him.
(Lord Caitanya calms the crowd and stops the kirtan. The devotees go offstage and in a few moments they return with the kazi, who appears very afraid and reluctant.)

Caitanya: (in a friendly way) Good evening, Chand Kazi, I am Caitanya.

Kazi: Namaste, Sadhuji!

Caitanya: Sir, I have come to your house as a guest, but upon seeing me, you hid yourself in your room. What kind of etiquette is this?

Kazi: (defensively) You came to my house in a very angry mood. I did not come to meet You immediately, just to pacify You. But, now that You are pacified, we can talk freely. Actually, You are just like my nephew, because Your grandfather, Nilambhara Cakravarti was just like an uncle to me in the village where I was a boy. If a nephew is angry, his uncle should be tolerant and similarly, when an uncle commits an offense, the nephew should not take it very seriously.

Caitanya: You are quite right, my dear □Uncle.□ I have just come to your home to ask some
questions about the Muslin faith.

Kazi: And You are welcome here! Now, tell me - just what is on Your mind?

Caitanya: My dear □uncle□, You drink cow□s milk, therefore the cow is like your

mother. The bull produces grains for your maintenance, therefore the bull is like you father. So tell me, what kind of religion is this you practice that allows you to kill your mother and father and eat them?

Kazi: Why, just as You have Your scriptures, we have ours, known as the Holy Koran. In the Koran, there is a regulation for killing cows and if such killing is done under the guidance of scripture, there is no sin.

Caitanya: No! The Vedas clearly say that cows should not be killed. Therefore, the Hindus do not engage in cow killing. However, there is a Vedic injunction which says that if a person is able to revive a living entity, then he can kill it and bring it back to life for experimental purposes. Therefore, the great sages sometimes killed animals and brought them back to life by chanting the Vedic hymns, just to prove the power of the Vedas. But now, there are no brahmanas with such powers and so, in this age, such arts are strictly forbidden.

> In this age of Kali, five acts are forbidden: the offering of a cow in sacrifice, the offering of a horse in sacrifice, the acceptance of the order of sanyassa, the offering of oblations of flesh to the forefathers and a man's begetting children by his brother's wife.

> Since you Mohammedans can not bring a dead animal back to life, you are responsible for killing that animal. Therefore, you are going to hell; there is no way for your deliverance. Cow killers are condemned to rot in hell for as many thousands of years as there are hairs on the body of the cow they kill.

Kazi: There are many such mistakes in our scriptures. Their compilers, not knowing the essence of knowledge, gave orders against all reason and argument.

Caitanya: My dear, uncle, I wish to ask you another question. Recently, in your city, there is always congregational chanting of the Holy Name going on. As a Mohammedan magistrate, you were at first opposed to the Hindus but now you do not do anything to stop them. When you broke the mrdanga drum, you made some threats but when the chanting continued on the streets, you did not carry them out. I cannot understand why this change has come over you.

Kazi: Kindly listen, O Gaura Hari! Please come to a private place, I shall then explain.

Caitanya: Do not be afraid of these men, they are all My confidential associates, speak frankly.

Kazi: (a little hesitant) Well, when I went to the Hindu's street, broke the drum and forbade the congregational chanting, that very night I had a terrible dream. I saw a greatly fearful lion, roaring very loudly, His body like a human being and His face like a lion! Roaring loudly. He placed His nails on my chest!! He said to me: "I shall immediately split your chest just as you broke the mrdanga drum! You have forbidden the performance of My congregational chanting, therefore, I must destroy you!

(Kazi 2 closes his eyes and trembles.) If you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant. At that time, I shall kill you, your entire family and all the meat-eaters!! (roars)

After saying this, the lion left, but I was very much afraid of Him! Just see the marks of His nails on my heart!

(Kazi rips open his shirt to show the long, red nail marks of Lord Nrsinghadev. Everyone is amazed except for Lord Caitanya.) I know now that You are the Supreme Lord, Narayana Himself and I take shelter of You.

Caitanya: (Pleased, Lord Caitanya touches the kazi.) The chanting of the Holy Name from your mouth has performed a wonder. It has nullified the reactions of your many sins. Now, you have become supremely pure.

Kazi: Only by Your mercy have my bad intentions vanished. Kindly favor me so that my devotion will always be fixed upon You.

Caitanya: I wish to beg you for one favor in charity. You must pledge that this Sankirtan Movement will never again be stopped by you, at least not in the district of Nadia.

Kazi: To as many descendants as take birth in my dynasty in the future, I give this grave admonition: No one shall check this Sankirtan Movement!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! (kirtan)

Lord Caitanya and the Kazi 6 -Lord Caitanya's Civil Disobedience Movement 2 by Radha Damodar dasa

SCENE ONE

(Scene opens with a roaring kirtan party. After some time, two Muslims come and start to cause trouble.)

1st Muslim: Stop! What is all this? How dare you make such a disturbance in a public place? What is the meaning of this? What is this dancing all about?

Devotee: We are performing Sankirtan - the public chanting of the Holy Names of Lord Krsna. This great mantra is recommended for constant chanting in this age, just to glorify the Supreme Lord! If you like, you can join us - it's for everyone!

1st Muslim: You mean, all this is a Hindu religious festival? Surely, you are aware that Bengal is ruled by followers of Mohammed and that all Hindu rituals are illegal? I am amazed that you have become so bold as to engage in such activities! We must report this to the kazi! I am sure that he will be very angry when he hears about all this!

2nd Muslim: Yes, we must inform him at once! I wouldn't be surprised if he had all of you whipped and flung into prison for years! Now, all of you get out of here and stop this disturbance!

1st Muslim: Yes, if there is any more of this chanting in Navadvip, there's going to be big trouble for you rascal Hindus!

2nd Muslim: They're not listening! These people are insane with their singing and dancing! And ...and I think it's getting to me, too! I want to chant and dance, too! Let's get out of here while it's still possible! Hare Krsna! Whoops, was that me? Hare Krsna! I can't help myself! Hari! Hari!

Both: Look out you! The kazi will put an end to your nonsense! (The Muslims leave quickly. The kirtan continues for a while, then the kazi, the magistrate, enters flamboyantly with the Two Muslims.)

Kazi: I <u>myself</u> will put an end to this madness! You there! (pointing) Stop playing that drum! Stop this chanting! Stop! (Devotees don't hear the kazi! The kazi attacks one drummer and takes the drum away from him.) I ordered you to stop this pounding! Now take this! (He hurls the drum to the ground.) BANG! There! Ha Ha! (Kirtan stops. The devotees are afraid.) I warned you once what would happen if you persisted in this crazy religion of yours; now I will tell you for the last time! (Shouting, livid with anger) If I <u>ever</u> catch your leader Nimai Pandit or <u>any</u> of you making this noise again, every one of you, do you hear - all of you (sweeping his hand) I will take away your property and make you become Muslims by forcing you to eat meat! (They leave.)

Muslims 1&2: (sneering) Ha Ha! We fixed you!

SCENE TWO The Kazi's House

(The kazi enters in his bedclothes, yawns and clambers into his bed, covers himself and falls asleep. The lights are dim. Lord Nrshingadev enters suddenly and wakes the kazi with His loud roaring. The kazi awakens terrified.)

Nrsinghadev: (very deep and loud) Kazi! Kazi! Now I can rid this world of you! You have offended the pure devotees; now you shall always suffer in Hell!

Kazi: (screaming) Guards! Guards! Help!

Nrsinghadev: I shall immediately rip apart your chest, just as you did to that mrdanga drum today! You have forbidden the performances of My congregational chanting; therefore, I must destroy you!

Kazi: Nooooo!! My dear Lord, Please, give me one more chance! I surrender unto You! I am Your servant!

Nrsinghadev: Very well! Because you are surrendered, I cannot kill you!! But, hear me, if you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant! At that time, I shall kill you, your entire family and all the Meat Eaters!!! (Lord Nrsinghadev roars; kazi trembles. Lights go out. Lord Nrsinghadev quickly disappears. Lights go back on and brighten.)

Kazi: Ahhhh,, morning at last! What a terrible dream! Let me forget it! I want nothing to do with this horrible Sankirtan Movement ever again! (Kazi gets up walks about, changes to his official clothes and goes to his desk or throne. Servant runs in, very panic stricken!)

Servant: Chand Kazi! You must stop this chanting of Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare! When I went to stop the congregational chanting today, as you yourself had ordered, suddenly flames struck my face! The flames came out of nowhere; my beard was burned and there are blisters on my cheeks!

Kazi: I don't believe it! Get out of here at once, you crazy fellow! This movement is nothing, I tell you! It can't last!

Meateater: Sir, I represent the Meat Eaters and we are disturbed! All day long we do not hear anything but this chanting! Indeed, we ourselves now always say this at every moment. Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!!!

Kazi: These Hindus chant Hare Krsna and they smile, cry, dance and fall on the ground, smearing their bodies with dirt because that is the name of their God. But, you are a Muslim Meat Eater, why do you also chant!

Meateater: Hari! Hari! Sir, one day I was joking with the Hindus (He chants Hare Krsna mantra in a funny voice as if teasing a child). Since that day my tongue always vibrates the sound Hare! and Krsna! I have no desire to say it, but still, my tongue always says it. Hari! Hari! I do not know what to do! I do not know what mystic hymns and herbal potions these Hindus know!

Kazi: (to himself) Oh no! What shall I do? What have I done! This Sankirtan Movement appears to be unstoppable!
(Hurriedly, embarrassed) Uh, yes! Rest assured, my dear Meat Eaters, that I am making a thorough investigation of this problem! Now, good day! Goodbye! Out! Get out!
(They exit with loud sorrowful chanting.)

1st Meateater: Hari! Hari! (throwing his hands up in anguish) Now there will always be unrestricted chanting of Krsna! Krsna! In the streets! The religion of the Hindus will unlimitedly. KRSNA! Krsna! That's all we can hear anymore!

2nd Meateater: We are becoming deaf from this Hari Hari! Krsna! Hari Bol!
(chants and the other Meateater joins him.)

Both: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

2nd Meateater: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare

1st Meateater: Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

SCENE THREE Lord Caitanya'S Room

Devotee:Oh, Lord Caitanya, please help us! The Chand Kazi came yesterday to the town square and disrupted the kirtan. He even broke a drum and ordered us to never chant Hare Krsna again! If we disobey his order he threatened to take away all our property and turn us into Muslims by forcing us to eat meat! The chanting is going on today, as you have ordered, but the devotees are worried for sake of their families! Everyone is afraid!

Caitanya: The Kazi does not understand. No one can check this Hare Krsna Sankirtan Movement. I will pay a visit to this Chand Kazi at his house and make him understand that our only desire is to glorify the One Supreme Lord of everyone! If he can understand this, he will have no objection to our Sankirtan Movement! Go now and organize many huge Hari Nama parties from all parts of the city. Tell them to bring torches from their homes and meet Me on the roadway Let us see what kind of kazi comes to stop our kirtan!

Devotees: Jai! Hari Bol!

SCENE FOUR - The Chand Kazi's House

(Tumultuous sound as many kirtan tapes are played at once. Lord Caitanya leads a kirtan party onto the stage.)

Kazi: Oh no! I see them coming! Roaring and angry! Guards! Protect the walls! I must hide! Oh, Lord! They are breaking down the walls and destroying the gardens!
(Kazi disappears.)

Caitanya: Do not disturb this respectable gentleman's property. We have come for friendly talks. I will sit here by the door and you older men go and inform the kazi that I have come to converse with him.
(The devotees go offstage and in a few moments they return with the kazi, who appears very afraid and reluctant.)

Caitanya: (in a friendly way) Good evening, Chand Kazi, I am Caitanya.

Kazi: Namaste, Sadhuji!

Caitanya: Sir, I have come to your house as a guest, but upon seeing me, you hid yourself in your room. What kind of etiquette is this?

Kazi: (defensively) You came to my house in a very angry mood. I did not come to meet You immediately, just to pacify You. But, now that You are pacified, we can talk freely. Actually, You are just like my nephew, because Your grandfather, Nilambhara Cakravarti was just like an uncle to me in the village where I was a boy. If a nephew is angry, his uncle should be tolerant and similarly, when an uncle commits an offense, the nephew should not take it very seriously.

Caitanya: You are quite right, my dear "Uncle." I have just come to your home to ask some questions about the Muslin faith.

Kazi: And You are welcome here! Now, tell me - just what is on Your mind?

Caitanya: My dear "uncle", You drink cow's milk, therefore the cow is like your mother. The bull

produces grains for your maintenance, therefore the bull is like your father. So tell me, what kind of religion is this you practice that allows you to kill your mother and father and eat them?

Kazi: Why, just as You have Your scriptures, we have ours, known as the Holy Koran. In the Koran, there is a regulation for killing cows and if such killing is done under the guidance of scripture, there is no sin.

Caitanya: No! The Vedas clearly say that cows should not be killed. Therefore, the Hindus do not engage in cow killing. However, there is a Vedic injunction which says that if a person is able to revive a living entity, then he can kill it and bring it back to life for experimental purposes. Therefore, the great sages sometimes killed animals and brought them back to life by chanting the Vedic hymns, just to prove the power of the Vedas. But now, there are no brahmanas with such powers and so, in this age, such arts are strictly forbidden.

In this age of Kali, five acts are forbidden: the offering of a cow in sacrifice, the offering of a horse in sacrifice, the acceptance of the order of sannyasa, the offering of oblations of flesh to the forefathers and a man's begetting children by his brother's wife.

Since you Mohammedans can not bring a dead animal back o life, you are responsible for killing that animal. Therefore, you are going to hell; there is no way for your deliverance. Cow killers are condemned to rot in hell for as many thousands of years as there are hairs on the body of the cow they kill.

Kazi: There are many such mistakes in our scriptures. Their compilers, not knowing the essence of knowledge, gave orders against all reason and argument.

Caitanya: My dear, uncle, I wish to ask you another question. Recently, in your city, there is always congregational chanting of the Holy Name going on. As a Mohammedan magistrate, you were at first opposed to the Hindus but now you do not do anything to stop them. When you broke the mrdanga drum, you made some threats but when the chanting continued on the streets, you did not carry them out. I cannot understand why this change has come over you.

Kazi: Kindly listen, O Gaura Hari! Please come to a private place, I shall then explain.

Caitanya: Do not be afraid of these men, they are all My confidential associates, speak frankly.

Kazi: (a little hesitant) Well, when I went to the Hindu's street, broke the drum and forbade the congregational chanting, that very night I had a frightful dream. I saw a greatly fearful lion, roaring very loudly, His body like a human being and His face <u>like a lion!</u>

In a deep, terrible voice he shouted, "I shall immediately split your chest just as you broke the mrdanga drum! You have forbidden the performance of <u>My</u> congregational chanting, therefore, I must destroy you!
(Kazi closes his eyes and trembles.)

Today, you did not create a very great disturbance, therefore, I have excused you and not taken your life. But, if you perform such activities again, I shall not be tolerant. At that time, I shall kill you, your entire family and all the meat-eaters!! (roars)

After saying this, the lion left, but I was very much afraid of Him! Just see the marks of His nails on my heart!
(Kazi rips open his shirt to show the long, red nail marks of Lord Nrsinghadev. Everyone is amazed
except for Lord Caitanya.)

I know now that You are the Supreme Lord, Narayana Himself. I wish to take shelter of Y ou, Lord.

Caitanya: (Pleased, Lord Caitanya touches the kazi.) The chanting of the Holy Name from your mouth has performed a wonder. It has nullified the reactions of your many sins. Now, you have become supremely pure.

Kazi: Only by Your mercy have my bad intentions vanished. Kindly favor me so that my devotion will always be fixed upon You.

Caitanya: I wish to beg you for one favor in charity. You must pledge that this Sankirtan Movement will never again be stopped by you, at least not in the district of Nadia.

Kazi: To as many descendants as take birth in my dynasty in the future, I give this grave admonition: No one shall check this Sankirtan Movement!

All: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! (kirtan)

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu Benefits the Mayavadi Sanyassis.

from Sri Caitanya Caritamrta Adi Lila Chapter Seven.
Adapted by Radha Damodar dasa_____

(Soft pleasant music and lights for long intro.)

Narrator: The characteristics of Krsna are understood to be a storehouse of transcendental love. Although that storehouse of love certainly came with Krsna when He was present, it was sealed. But, when Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu came with His other associates in the Panca Tattva, they broke the seal and plundered the storehouse to taste transcendental love of Krsna.

The more they tasted it, the more their taste for it grew. Sri Panca Tattva themselves danced again and again and thus made it easier to drink nectarean love of Godhead. They danced, cried, laughed and chanted like madmen and in this way distributed love of Godhead.

In distributing love of Godhead, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and His associates did not consider who was a fit candidate and who was not nor where such distribution should or should not take place. They made no conditions. Wherever they got the opportunity the members of the Panca Tattva distributed love of Godhead. The flood of love of Godhead swelled in all directions and thus young men, old men, women and children were all immersed in that inundation. The impersonalists, fruitive workers, false logicians, blasphemers, non-devotees and lowest among the student community are very expert in avoiding the Krsna Consciousness movement and therefore the inundation of Krsna Consciousness cannot touch them.

Seeing that the Mayavadis and others were fleeing, Nimai Pandit thought: “I wanted everyone to be immersed in this inundation of love of Godhead but some of them have escaped.” Thus, the Lord accepted the sanyassa order of life after full consideration.

After taking sanyassa, Sri Caitanya stayed for two months at the home of Candrasekhara in Varanasi, a city known for it's scholarly discussions by mayavadi sanyassis. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu met Sanatan Goswami in Varanasi and instructed Sanatana Goswami in Devotion for two months. But, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu never associated with the mayavadi sanyassis. One day a householder came to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and begged Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to take lunch at his home.

Brahmana: My dear Lord, I have invited all the sanyassis of Benares to my home. My desires will be fulfilled if You also accept my invitation I know that You never mix with other sannyasis, but please be merciful

unto me and accept my invitation.

Narrator: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu smiled and accepted the householder's invitation. He made this gesture to show His mercy to the Mayavadi sannyasis.The next day, when Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu went to the house of that brahmana, He saw all the sanyassis of Benares sitting there. He immediately offered obeisances and then He went to wash His feet. After washing His feet, He sat down by the place where He had done so. Then He exhibited His mystic power by manifesting an effulgence as brilliant as the illumination of millions of suns. When the sannyasis saw the brilliant illumination of the body of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, their minds were attracted, and they immediately gave up their sitting places and stood in respect. The leader of the sannyasis, Prakasananda Saraswati, addressed Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu with great respect:

Prakasananda: Please come here, please come here, Your Holiness. Why do You sit in that unclean place? What has caused Your lamentation?

Caitanya: I belong to a lower order of sannyasis. Therefore, I do not deserve to sit with you.

Prakasananda:(bringing Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu in their midst by the hand) I understand that Your name is Sri Krsna Caitanya. You are a disciple of Sri Kesava Bharati and therefore you are glorious. You belong to our Sankara sampradaya and live in our village. Why then do You not associate with us? Why is it that You avoid even seeing us? Meditation and study of the Vedanta are the sole duties of a sanyassi. Why do You abandon these to dance with fanatics?

Caitanya: Dear sir, kindly hear the reason. My spiritual master considered me a fool and therefore he chastised me, saying, "You are a fool. You are not qualified to study Vedanta philosophy and therefore You must always chant the holy name of Krsna. This is the essence of all mantras or Vedic hymns. Simply by chanting the holy name of Krsna one can obtain freedom from material existence. Indeed, simply by chanting the Hare Krsna Mantra one will be able to see the lotus feet of the Lord.

In this age of Kali, there is no other religious principle than the chanting of the Holy Name, which is the essence of all Vedic hymns. This is the purport of all scriptures."

After describing the potency of the Hare Krsna Mantra, My spiritual master taught Me another verse, advising Me to always keep the name within My throat. "In this age of Kali there is no alternative, there is no alternative, there is no alternative for spiritual progress than the holy name, the holy name, the holy name of the Lord."

Since I received this order from My spiritual master, I always chant the Holy Name, but I think that by chanting and chanting the Holy Name I have been bewildered. While chanting the holy name of the Lord in pure ecstasy, I lose myself, and thus I laugh, cry, dance and sing just like a madman.

Collecting My patience, therefore, I began to consider that chanting the Hare Krsna mantra had covered all My spiritual knowledge. I saw that I had become mad by chanting the holy name and I immediately submitted this at lotus feet of My spiritual master. "My dear lord, what kind of mantra have you given Me? I have become mad simply by chanting this maha mantra!"

My spiritual master said, "When one actually develops love of Godhead, he naturally sometimes cries, sometimes laughs, sometimes chants and sometimes runs here and there just like a madman. Perspiration, trembling, standing of one’s bodily hairs, tears, faltering, fading, madness, melancholy, patience, pride, joy and humility - these are various natural symptoms of ecstatic love of Godhead, which causes a devotee to dance and float in an ocean of transcendental bliss while chanting the Hare Krsna mantra. Continue dancing, chanting and performing Sankirtan in the association of devotees. Furthermore, go out and preach the value of chanting Krsna Nama for by this process You will be able to deliver all fallen souls."

Saying this, my spiritual master taught Me one verse from

Srimad Bhagavatam. It is the essence of all the Bhagavatam's instructions: "When a person is actually advanced and takes pleasure in chanting the holy name of the Lord, Who is very dear to him, he is agitated and loudly chants the holy name. He also laughs, cries, becomes agitated and chants just like a madman, not caring for outsiders."

I firmly believe in the words of My spiritual master and therefore I always chant the holy name of the Lord, alone and in the association of devotees. Compared to the ocean of transcendental bliss that is tasted by chanting the Hare Krsna mantra, the pleasure derived from impersonal Brahman realization, Brahmananda, is like the shallow water in a canal.

My dear Lord, O Master of the universe, since I have directly seen You, my spiritual bliss has taken the shape of a great ocean. Being situated in that ocean, I now realize all other so-called happiness to be like the water contained in the hoof print of a calf.

Prakasananda: Dear sir, there is no objection to Your being a great devotee of Lord Krsna. But, why do You avoid discussion on the Vedanta Sutra? What is the fault in it?

Caitanya: My dear sirs, if you don't mind, I can say something to you regarding Vedic philosophy. Sripada Sankaracharya, under the order of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, has described all the Vedic literatures in terms of indirect meanings. One who hears such instruction is ruined.

Everything about the Lord is spiritual,including His body, opulence and paraphernalia. One who considers the transcendental body of Lord Vishnu to be made of material nature is the greatest offender at he lotus feet of the Lord. When we speak of the Supreme as impersonal, we deny His spiritual potencies. Logically, if you accept half of the truth, you cannot understand the whole. It is only by devotional service, beginning with hearing, that one can approach the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Prakasananda: Dear Sir, You are Vedic knowledge personified and are directly Narayana Himself. Kindly excuse us for the offenses we previously committed by criticizing You.

Narrator: Thus Lord Caitanya excused all the offenses of the Mayavadi
sanyassis and very mercifully blessed them with Krsna-nama. Many Mayavadi sanyassis came to see the Lord after this incident and

the entire city praised Him and chanted the Hare Krsna mantra. Wherever the Lord went, hundreds and thousands of people assembled to hear from Him. Whenever the crows were too great, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu would stand up, raise His hands and get everyone to say “HARI! HARI!” To which all the people responded, filling both the land and the sky with the vibration.

After thus delivering the people in general, the Lord desired to leave Varanasi. He dispatched His two generals – Rupa Goswami and Sanatana Goswami to Vrndavana to preach the bhakti cult. Nityananda Prabhu was sent to Bengal to preach and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu personally traveled throughout South India, broadcasting the holy name of Lord Krsna in every village and town. In this way, He delivered everyone.**(kirtan or bhajana)**

The End

Sri Caitanya's Sanyassa Pastimes

SCENE ONE

Narrator: Nimai Pandit performed many wonderful pastimes in the home of Advaita Acarya. Once, after Nimai Pandit had finished His dancing, a woman, the wife of a Brahmana, rushed into the room and caught hold of His Lotus Feet.

Nimai Pandit: Hari Bol! Hari Bol! Such a nice kirtan. Let us now take Prasadam.

All: Jai! Jai Gaura Sundara!! Hari Bol!

Woman: O Nimai Pandit, You are so magnanimous, I must take the dust of Your Lotus Feet. Your fame is spread all over the three worlds. Jai Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu! **(she touches Nimai Pandit's Lotus Feet and leaves.)**

Nimai Pandit: Now, I must bathe in the River Ganges to counteract the sinful reactions that this woman has transferred to me.

1st Devotee: The lord seems so upset, who knows what He may do.

2nd Devotee: We must go with the Lord and bathe. If we always chant the name of Krsna, it will calm Him.

1st Devotee: Yes, let's go.

Nimai Pandit: Haribol!! **(kirtan as they leave.)**

SCENE TWO

1st Devotee: Now You are all wet, let us go to get Your dry clothes and some nice prasadam.

2nd Devotee: Yes, You should stay with us and let us take care of all Your needs.

Nimai Pandit: Alright, let us go together, to your ashram.

Narrator: That night, the Lord stayed at the home of Vijaya Acharya and in the morning, the Lord took all His devotees and returned home. One day, the Lord, in the ecstasy of the gopis, was chanting "gopi, gopi!!"

Nimai Pandit: Gopi! Gopi!

Student: Why are You chanting this "Gopi Gopi" Mantra instead of the Holy Name of the Lord which is so glorious? What pious result will You achieve by such chanting?

Nimai Pandit: O Krsna! You rascal, You have stolen My heart and will not give it back! And now, this foolish Brahmana is telling me to glorify You!
(Nimai Pandit picks up a stick and chases the Student offstage.)

Nityananda: Why are you chasing the Brahmana students like this? You should show them Your mercy. They are simply young boys! Please calm Yourself and come home.

Nimai Pandit: Alright, I will come with you.

SCENE THREE

1st Student: Did you hear what Nimai Pandit did today?

2nd Student: What did He do?

1st Student: Well, I was walking past the house of Nimai Pandit and heard Him chanting "Gopi! Gopi!" instead of the names of Krsna! When I questioned him about this, He became angry and He began to rebuke Lord Krsna in very severe tones and then ...

2nd Student: What did He do then?

1st Student: He jumped up and chased me! Me, a Brahmana ! With a stick! He could have created a serious offense but, just then, His associate caught hold of Him and, calming Him, took Him somewhere else.

(Students become angry.)

2nd Student: Nimai Pandit has alone spoiled the entire country.

3rd Student: He wants to strike a caste Brahmana!

4th Student: He has no fear of religious principles!

2ND Student: If He again attempts such an atrocious act then we should retaliate and strike Him in turn!

5th Student: Who is He, an important person, that He dares to check us in this way?

4th Student: The others will want to hear of this; let's go and find them! **(all leave)**

SCENE FOUR

Narrator: Nimai Pandit could understand the degradation of these students because He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He wanted to rescue these poor caste Brahmanas from the snares of Impersonalism and so meditated on ways to increase their receptivity to Him.

Nimai Pandit: All the so-called professors and scientists and their students generally follow the regulative principles of religion, fruitive activities and austerities, yet, at the same time, they are blasphemers and rogues. If I do not induce them to take to devotional service, because of committing the offense of blasphemy, none of these people will be able to take to it. I have come to deliver all the fallen souls, but now just the opposite has happened. How can these rogues be delivered?

How may they be benefited? If these rogues offer me obeisances, the reactions of their sinful activities will be nullified.

Then, if I induce them, they will take to devotional service. I must certainly deliver all these fallen souls who blaspheme Me and do not offer Me obeisances. I must accept the renounced order of life, sanyassa for thus people will offer Me their obeisances. This will relieve them of all the reactions to their offenses. Then, by My grace, devotional service, bhakti, will awaken in their pure hearts.

Narrator: One day, a renowned scholar, Kesava Bharati Maharaj, visited the town of Navadvip. He was a sanyassi in a Mayavadi order.

Nimai Pandit: Somehow or other, I must engage the Brahmana students in My service. Because they do not respect householders and Vaisnavas, they do not hear My teachings. Generally, the Vaisnavas do not take sanyassa but if I were to take Sanyassa then they would automatically bow down to Me due to their family upbringing.

(Music. Nimai Pandit approaches Kesava Bharati Maharaj and offers obeisances.)

Nimai Pandit: O Kesava Bharati Maharaj, how good it is to see you! You must be so hungry after your travels. Please come this very day to my home and eat prasad.

Maharaj: I will most certainly be honored to accept Your kind invitation because, as You say, I am very hungry. Thank you for this mercy! **(music)**

SCENE FIVE

Nimai Pandit: I must prepare some very nice foodstuffs for Lord Krsna and offer the remnants to Kesava Bharati Maharaj. Perhaps, I will be able to accept the renounced order from him. I will ask him when he arrives. I must submit My request in the proper way.

(There is a knock at the door. Nimai Pandit runs to admit Kesava Bharati Maharaj.)

Nimai Pandit: My dear Kesava Bharati Maharaj, you have come! Please, take a seat and honor this humble prasadam. I have cooked plenty, so please eat to your heart's content.

Maharaj: Thank you very much. It certainly looks very wonderful! **(He eats.)**

Nimai Pandit: Sir, you are directly Narayana, therefore, please be merciful to Me. Deliver Me from this material world.

Maharaj: You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the Supersoul. I must do whatever You cause me to do; I am not independent of You.

Nimai Pandit: Please honor Me and grant My request. I wish to

enter the renounced order of life.

Maharaj: This I will gladly do, but You must come to my village, Katwa, and there I will make all arrangements for this great occasion. Now, You must sit down and honor prasadam with me! **(They eat.)**

SCENE SIX

Narrator: After accepting the Eka-danda Sanyassa order in the Sankarite sect from Kesava Bharati Maharaj and being given the name Sri Krsna Caitanya, Sri Caitanya traveled to Vrndavan to engage Himself wholly in the service of Krsna, Who is known as Mukunda, the giver of liberation, in a solitary place. As Sri Caitanya was enroute to Vrndavan, all the ecstatic symptoms of Krsna Consciousness became manifest in Him and He did not know in which direction He was going, nor did He know whether it was day or night.

On the way, Lord Nityananda decided to play some transcendental tricks on Sri Caitanya. One of these pastimes was as follows:

When Sri Caitanya arrived at the place known as Kamalapura He took His bath in the Bharginadi River and left His Danda or Sanyassa Staff, with Sri Nityananda.

Caitanya: Nitai Prabhu, I will take my bath here in this beautiful river and then I will visit the place known as Kapotesware, a temple of Lord Siva. Please keep my danda very safe while I am gone.

Nityananda: My Lord, I am Your servant, whatever You request, I shall do. **(Sri Caitanya leaves.)** Hmmm ... What is the reason for Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to carry this Danda wherever He goes? He is not a sanyassi, He is more than Paramahamsa! He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself!! I will break this danda and cast the pieces into the river. Then, He will never have to carry it again!

Narrator: After dancing and chanting and exhibiting many Wondrous symptoms of ecstasy at Kapotesware, Sri Caitanya returned and requested Nityananda Prabhu to give back His danda.

Caitanya: Please return my staff, dear Nityananda.

Nityananda: It has been broken in three parts. When You fell down in ecstasy, I caught You, but both of us fell down together upon the staff, causing it to break under our weight. Where the pieces have gone I cannot say. It is certainly because of my offenses that Your staff has broken. Now, You may punish Me as You see fit.

Caitanya: You have all benefitted Me by bringing Me to Nilachala. However, my only possession was that one staff, and You have not kept it. So, all of you should go before Me or behind Me to see Lord Jagannatha. I shall not go with You. **(Sri Caitanya walks away chanting Hare Krsna. Nityananda Prabhu goes off in the**

other direction.)

Narrator: After this incident, the Lord continued alone towards Jagannatha Puri, always chanting the Holy Names of Krsna and exhibiting all the symptoms of ecstasy. Once, the Lord mistook the Ganges River for the Yamuna River.

SCENE SEVEN The Banks of the Ganges River

(Two or more Boys come out, playing catch.)

Nityananda: Boys, there is a Friend of Ours near here we'd like to play a little joke on Him. If He asks you the way to Vrndavana, please show Him the path on the bank of the Ganges instead. Okay?

(The Boys laughingly agree. Nitai exits. The boys resume playing. Sri Caitanya enters, chanting the Hare Krsna Mantra.)

Caitanya: (calling to boys) Hari! Hari!

Boys: Hari! Hari!

Caitanya: Krsna! Rama ! Hare!

Boys: Hare Krsna! Hare Rama!

Caitanya: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Boys: (They sing along. They have kirtan for several minutes.) Hey, that was fun! Yeah!

Caitanya: Go on chanting like that. You are all very fortunate!

Boys: Sure, no kidding! We'll sing it all the time!

Caitanya: You see, material existence is almost impossible to croos over , just like a dangerous ocean, but if you simply always chant *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*, you can cross that dark and frightening ocean as if it were the water in the hoof print of one of your little calves.

1st Boy: Who are You?

2nd Boy: Where are You going?

Caitanya: My name is Caitanya and I've just renounced the deep dark well of household existence to hear, chant, remember, worship, pray, serve, love and surrender everything to the Supreme loving couple, Sri Sri Radha Krsna. I am going to Vrndavana, the divine lotus home of the Lord. Do you know which path I take?

Boys: (giggling) That way!

Caitanya: (leaving quickly) Hari! Hari Bol!!

(The Boys laugh and resume playing. When Sri Caitanya is out of sight, Nityananda Prabhu enters)

Nityananda: That was wonderful! You did fine! Now, could I ask another favor of you?

1st Boy: Certainly, Prabhu. Anything!

2nd Boy: How may we serve You?

Nityananda: Then, one of you please go immediately to the ashram of Sri Advaita Acarya in the nearby village of Santipura. Tell him to go to the bank of the Ganges and stay there on shore with a boat. I shall bring Sri Caitanya there. After that, run as fast as you can to Navadvipa and bring Mother Saci and all Vaisnava devotees. We're going to have an ecstatic kirtan and festival and everyone is invited!!

1st Boy: I'll go!

2nd Boy: No, I'll go!
(Both Boys or all the Boys run off. Sri Caitanya returns.)

Nityananda: Jai, Mahaprabhu! Please accept my obeisances!

Caitanya: Nityananda prabhu! What great fortune to see You! But, what are You doing here? Where are You going?

Nityananda: Actually, My Lord, Your recent renunciation has inspired Me and I've decided to go with You to Vrndavana.

Caitanya: What good news this is! And how far is it to Vrindavana?

Nityananda: Just see, here is the River Yamuna!

Caitanya: Oh, this is the most auspicious day of My life! Now, I have seen the sacred Yamuna! **(offers obeisances)** I will pray to Mother Yamuna and enter into her waters. **(prays)** O River Yamuna, you are the blissful spiritual water that gives love to the Son of Nanda Maharaj. You are the same as the water of the Spiritual World for you can vanquish all of our offenses. O daughter of the Sun God, kindly purify Us. **(Sri Caitanya bathes and Sri Advaita Acharya arrives with dry clothes for Sri Caitanya.)**

Caitanya: Sri Advaita Prabhu! My cup overflows with blessings! But, how have You come here, all the way to Vrndavana? How did You know that I was here? How did You find Me??

Advaita: Lord Gaura Sundar, wherever You are, that is Vrndavana. You are the Lord of Vrndavana and all the worlds. Everything belongs to You!!

Caitanya: Everything belongs to Krsna! *Isavasya idam sarvam, Yat kinca jagat am jagat.* But, please answer Me! How have You come to the bank of the Yamuna??

Advaita: Yamuna?! My Lord, You know everything - past, present and future - but this is the bank of the Ganges.

Caitanya: Then this rascal Nityananda has cheated Me! **(to Nitai)** You have brought Me to the bank of the Ganges and told me that it was the Yamuna!

Advaita: Whatever Nityananda Prabhu has told you is not false. You have indeed just now taken bath in the River Yamuna for at this spot both the Ganges and Yamuna flow together. And now, since You have finished Your bath in the River Yamuna, You should put on these dry garments. I know that You have been fasting for three days, so I beg You to accept My invitation. Please come to My home where I have prepared a very simple meal just suitable for a new Swami. Come, let us go there now!

SCENE EIGHT At the Home of Advaita Acarya

Advaita: Now, please come in, sit here as my guest of honor. Excuse Me for one moment while I make the offering to Lord Vishnu.
(Advaita Acarya sings and rings a small bell while offering incense and a flower to His Deities. Then there is music while he transfers the plates and sets the prasadam on a short-legged table as Sri Caitanya and Sri Nityananda watch.)

Caitanya: This is incredible! I will personally take on My head, birth after birth, the lotus feet of anyone who is able to offer to Lord Vishnu such nice preparations as these!

Advaita: Please sit down right here to honor the Lord's remnants. Just sit down here on these seats.
(Advaita Acharya lays two mats on the floor. Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu sit down.)

Caitanya: Actually, it is not proper for a sanyassi to eat such a variety of foodstuff. If he does, how can he control his senses?

Advaita: With all due respect, My Lord, We know Who You are and why You took sanyassa. Please honor this prasadam.

Caitanya: Well, I certainly cannot eat so much.

Advaita: Simply accept the prasada. What You cannot eat, simply leave on Your plate.

Caitanya: It is not the duty of a sanyassi to leave remnants.

Advaita: What three people can eat is nothing for You. In Your Universal Form, You are devouring the three worlds. It is My great fortune that You have blessed My home by coming here. Please, just begin eating and do not talk anymore.
(Advaita Acharya pours water for His Guests as They wash Their hands. There is music or a bhajana as Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu eat with great enthusiasm. Advaita Acarya looks on.)

Nityananda:(jokingly) I have been fasting for three days and I had certainly hoped to break my fast today. But, I can see that

our good Acharya intends for Me to continue My fast. Such a small quantity of foodstuff as this will not even half fill my belly.

Advaita: Sir, You are simply a beggar travelling on pilgrimages. Sometimes You eat fruits and roots or fast for days. I am a poor Brahmana; please just be satisfied with whatever You get and give up this greedy mentality.

Nityananda: Whatever I may be, you have invited me -so You must give Me as much as I want.

Advaita: You are a reject Paramahamsa and have accepted the guise of renunciation just to fill up Your belly. I can see that You like to give trouble to poverty-stricken Brahmans. How shall I get so much rice? Please eat what is there and then go away. It is madness to throw food around like this.

(Advaita Acharya serves more prasada.)

Caitanya: How much more can I go on eating?

Advaita: Just try to eat at least half of what is there now.

Nityananda: My belly is not yet half full! Please take away Your grudgingly given food. I have not taken the least of it!!

(Nityananda Prabhu, feigning anger, scatters rice in all directions.)

Advaita: (Dancing blissfully when Nityananda Prabhu□s remnants touch Him) My dear Lord Nityananda, I have invited You and indeed I have received the results!! You are a madman; and to make Me a madman, too, You have showered the remnants of Your plate on Me.

Nityananda: These are the remnants of food left by Lord Krsna. If You think they are ordinary, then you have committed a great offense. And only by inviting at least one hundred sanyassis to Your home and feeding them sumptuously, can You nullify the offense.

Advaita: I shall never again invite another sanyassi for a sanyassi has spoiled all my Brahminical regulations, **(To Sri Caitanya)** Please accept just one more serving!

Caitanya: No more, please! I beg of You!

Advaita: Then please come wash Your hands and lie down to take rest for a while.

SCENE NINE Kirtan at the Home of Advaita Acarya

(Advaita Acharya and several devotees are having a lively kirtan when Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu enter. All offer obeisances.)

Advaita: My dear friends, what shall I say? Today has been a day of the highest transcendental pleasure. After many days of waiting and praying, Lord Krsna has come to bless My humble home.

Devotees: Hari Bol!
(They start the kirtan again. Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu dance. Advaita Acarya tries to touch Sri Caitanya□s Lotus Feet.)

Advaita: For many days, You escaped Me, but now that I have You, I will keep You bound up by the ropes of My love!
(Sri Caitanya swoons and almost falls in kirtan. Nityananda Prabhu supports Sri Caitanya so that He won't fall again. Then, Sri Caitanya's mother, Sacimata, enters.)

Caitanya: Mother!!
(Sri Caitanya falls at her feet. She helps Sri Caitanya up and embraces Him, crying.)

Sacimata: My darling Nimai, do not be cruel like Your elder brother, Visvarupa. After accepting the renounced order, He left us ... and we haven't seen or heard from Him since! We don't know if He's living or dead! Please don't do that. If You do, it will certainly be the death of me!!

Caitanya: My dear Mother, please listen to Me. This body comes from you, it was raised by you and it belongs to you. I cannot repay My debt to you in millions of years. I have accepted the renounced order, true, but I shall never be indifferent to you. I will do whatever you like. But, make some arrangement so that I may not leave you and, at the same time, people may not blame Me for remaining with relatives after taking sanyassa.

Sacimata: It will be the greatest happiness for me if my beloved Nimai stays here. But, at the same time, if people blame Him and criticize Him, it will make me unhappy.I have taken all this into consideration and this is my opinion: if Nimai remains fairly close by - in nearby Orissa at Jagannatha Puri, I think everyone will be satisfied. People are always coming and going between here and there and, in this way, I will be able to get news of You every now and again. Really, I do not care about my own happiness, but only for Your happiness.

All: All Glories to Mother Saci! Sacimata ki jaya!

Caitanya: If this is your desire, then I ask your permission to spend My days in Jagannath Puri. I assure you all that I will return again and again. Lastly, You had blamed Your unhappiness on Advaita Acharya thinking that he had persuade Me to take sanyassa and in this way you created an offense to Advaita Acharya. It was solely my idea to take sanyassa in order to gain the respect of the mayavadi sanyassis. You may mitigate this offense by bowing down and taking the dust of Sri Advaita's lotus feet upon your head. **(She does this.)**

All: Sri Advaita ki jaya! Mother Saci Ki jaya! Sri Caitanya ki jaya!!

Caitanya: You are all My intimate friends. Now I am begging one last favor of You. Please return home and always chant the Holy Name in the association of devotees, worship Sri Krsna, chant His Holy Name and discuss His inconceivable Pastimes among

yourselves. Thank you.

All: Jaya! Hari Bol! Jaya Sri Caitanya! Jai Nimai Nitai! Nitai Gauranga! Jai!

(Kirtan starts again, Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu dance.)

Rescuing Sri Caitanya From the Sea

From Sri Caitanya Caritamrta , adapted by Bhurijan dasa

Narrator: One who wants to describe the ecstatic love of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is like a dwarf trying to catch the moon and the stars. If Ananta Sesa with His one thousand hoods, tries to describe even one day in the life of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, He would find it impossible to describe fully. But when an ordinary living entity tries to describe the pastimes of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, he purifies himself by touching one drop of that great ocean of love of Godhead. (Music) During the night of the autumn season, while the full moon brightened everything Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu wandered through Jagannatha Puri with His devotees. In His ecstasy, He walked from garden to garden, remembering the pastimes of Lord Krsna and hearing and reciting songs and verses concerning Krsna's Rasa Dance. He sang and danced in ecstatic love and sometime He would fall down and roll on the ground. Sometimes, He would become unconscious due to the intensity of His transcendental emotions. When Sri Caitanya recited verses about the Rasa Dance or heard Swarup Damodar recite them, He would personally explain the meaning of the verse to His devotees.

Swarup: (reads to Sri Caitanya and two other devotees) While Krsna was enjoying the company of the gopis in the Rasa Dance, the demigods and their wives gathered in the sky. The moon, being afflicted by a kind of lust began to watch the dance and became stunned with wonder.

Caitanya: Krsna exhibited the Rasa Dance to show special mercy to the fallen conditioned souls. In Srimad Bhagavatam, Sukadev Goswami says that the pastimes and activities of Krsna and the gopis are medicine for the conditioned souls. If they hear about Krsna, they will become relieved of their material desires!!

Swarup: As an independent leader of the elephants enters the water along with his female elephants, Krsna, Who is transcendental, entered into the water of the Yamuna along with the gopis. Attracted by the fragrance of Krsna's flower garland, humming bumblebees followed Krsna like the heavenly beings of Gandarvaloka. Come, let us chant the Holy Name.

(All sing and dance. Sri Caitanya wanders off, {SPLASH},the kirtan continues for a while.)

Devotee: Where has Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu gone? This is astonishing! Perhaps the Lord has gone to the temple of Lord Jagannath or perhaps, in His ecstasy, He has lain down in some garden. Or perhaps, maybe He went to the Gundica temple. Let us try to find Him!

All: (calling) Sri Caitanya! Sri Caitanya!

Devotee: Ohhhh I feel the life has left my body! This is very frightening! Come, let us organize our search. You go towards Catur Purvaka and I will go east and look for the Lord on the beach and in the water. (Music)

Narrator: What had happened was that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu had suddenly seen the

ocean. Mistaking it for the Yamuna River, the Lord ran swiftly to the beach and jumped into the water, unseen by others. Sometimes, He sank beneath the waves and sometimes He floated, carried about like a piece of wood. Within the waves of the water, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu became fully absorbed in the sporting pastimes of Krsna with the gopis in the waters of the Yamuna River. Who can understand the dramatic pastimes of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu? Meanwhile ...

(Open curtain on ocean scene. Play a tape with crashing waves and seagull cries.)

Fisherman: (singing loudly) Tava Kara Kamala Vare Nakam Abuta Sringham Dalita Hiranyakasipu Tanu Brngham Kesava Dhrta Narahari Rupa Jaya Jagadis Hare Jaya Jagadis Hare! Nice night isn't it ? Look out! Here comes a big wave! (Toss water towards audience! Pause) Here comes another one! (Toss water towards audience. Pause.)

Quiet! Quiet! I am trying to catch some fish. Ahhhh! In this solitary place, I stay alone! Each night, I bravely wander, wandering here and there alone! But I am not afraid because I always chant the Nrshmha mantra! Tava Kara Kamala Vare Nakam Abuta Sringham Dalita Hiranyakasipu Tanu Brngham Kesava Dhrta Narahari Rupa Jaya Jagadis Hare Jaya Jagadis Hare! By catching fish, night after night, I get money and with that money I support my family. And I've got a big family, too! There's Vijay, Mahesh, Rani, Lalu and Vinode, and Sakti and KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK WOW! Tava Kara Kamala Vareeeeeeee!! Ahhhh, I thought that might be a ghost. But, no ghost can touch me because, although I am alone, I always sing the Nrsingha Mantra, therefore I am safe. Tava Kara Kamala Vare Nakam Abuta Sringham Dalita Hiranyakasipu Tanu Brngham Kesava Dhrta Narahari Rupa Jaya Jagadis Hare Jaya Jagadis Hare

And WOW! What's this? Wow! What a fish! This fish is huge! This fish is going to feed us for a long time! Oooff! (strains) This fish is heavy! Oooooh! OoooooH! It's a dead body! Get this dead body out of my net! I'll push it out! HARI! HARI! HARI! I ... I can't stop saying HARI HARI HARI HARI! Take shelter of the

.

TavaKaraKamalaVareNakamAbutaSringhamDalita HiranyakasipuTanuBrnghamKesavaDhrtaNarahariRupaJaya JagadisHareJayaJagadisHare HARI! HARI! HARI! (

Nrsingfha Mantra! Get yourself together!(music to indicate passage of time)

Swarup: (calling) Sri Caitanya! Sri Caitanya!

Fisherman: (tired) HARI! HARI! HARI!

Swarup: Hmmm ... this is not ordinary ... (calling) Come here! (Fisherman comes over) My dear Fisherman: have you seen anyone wandering about?

Fisherman: I have not seen HARI HARI anyone nearby, but while Hari! Hari! ... while Hari! Hari! ... casting my net, I captured a dead body!!! Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari!

Swarup: You caught a corpse in your net?

Fisherman: Yes, I (pant pant) I lifted it out of the water with great care, thinking it was a big fish, but as soon as I saw that it was a corpse GREAT FEAR arose in my mind!! Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari!

Swarup: Did you touch that corpse?

Fisherman: I tried to push it from my net Hari! Hari! but as soon as I touched that body ... a GHOST ENTERED MY HEART! Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari!

Swarup: Then what?

Fisherman: I began to shiver, then I began to cry in fear Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari! ... tears ran down my cheeks, my voice faltered and all the hairs of my body stood on end! I could not control myself! I began to chant Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari!

Swarup: What did the ghost look like?

Fisherman: He is very, very long maybe 7 to 10 feet! And each arm and each leg is at least 4 feet long!

Swarup: What else?

Fisherman: The joints of His body are all separated beneath the skin, no one could see it and remain alive! Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari!

Swarup: Calm down, calm down tell me more!

Fisherman: The Ghost keeps His eyes open! Sometimes He utters the sound "gongongongon" and sometimes He remains silent! Hari! Hari! I don't know whether He is a Ghost of a Brahman or an ordinary man! Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari!

Swarup: At least the Lord is still alive!

Fisherman: I have seen that Ghost directly and He is haunting me! Hari! Hari! If I die, who will take care of my dear wife Hari! Hari! and children Hari! Hari! and I've got a lot of Hari! Hari! children! I must find an exorcist IMMEDIATELY! I wander alone, at night, KILLING FISH! Hari! Hari! in lonely places Hari! Hari! I wander alone, but because I chant the Nrsingha Mantra ghosts do not touch me usually but this Ghost Hari! Hari!Hari! Hari! when I began to chant the Nrsingha Mantra, the Ghost made me cry out Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari! with double strength! Don't go in this direction over there; I forbid it! Don't go Hari! Hari! over Hari! Hari! there! If you do the Ghost will capture you, too Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari!

Swarup: My dear Fisherman: I am a famous exorcist and I know how to rid you of this Ghost!

Fisherman: You are? Hari! Hari! You do? Hari! Hari!

Swarup: Yes.

Fisherman: Please get Him out of me fast! Hari! Hari! Hari! Hari!

Swarup: Come over here. Sit down. Now I will chant one mantra which will get rid of this Ghost.

Fisherman: Thank you, yes Hari! Hari!

Swarup: Om namo Bhagavate Vasudevah

Dehino smin yatha dehe
Srnvatam swa katha Krsna
Matra sparsas tu Kauteya!
(Swarup Damodar slaps Fisherman three times.) Now the Ghost has gone away; don't be afraid.

Fisherman: Ooof! Ooooh well, thank you. Still, I don't feel the same as I did before I saw the Ghost; but, I'm not afraid anymore.

Swarup: Please listen! Now that you are calm, you will be able to understand. The Person you are thinking is a Ghost is not actually a ghost but is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Fisherman: No! No! I saw a ghost! I have seen Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu many times! I saw a ghost! It couldn't have been Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Swarup: Because of His ecstatic love, the Lord fell into
the sea.

Fisherman: That means that I have actually rescued Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu from the sea! Hari Bol! Hari Bol! I am feeling very happy that I have done this!

Swarup: Now, please! Take me to where Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is!

Narrator: Following the Fisherman, Swarup Damodar and the other devotees went to where the Lord was placed after He had been rescued from the sea. The Lord was lying on the ground, His body was elongated and bleached white by the water. He was covered from head to toe by sand.

Fisherman: He's over here! Please come quickly, here!

2nd Devotee: Ohhh, look at the Lord! His body is long and slackened!

Swarup: Let us remove His wet clothing and replace it with dry cloth.

2nd Devotee: How will we get Him home? It's such a long way; it will be impossible!

Swarup: We should perform Sankirtan the congregational chanting of the Holy Names of Krsna. If we loudly chant the Holy Names in the Lord's ear, He will return to consciousness. Everyone should chant!! (Swarup Damodar starts a kirtan)

2nd Devotee: They'll have to chant very loudly if they want to
bring the Lord back to consciousness!

Swarup: Come on everyone CHANT!!

Fisherman: Hari Bol! Hari Bol!

Swarup: You're not chanting loudly enough! You're not chanting loudly enough! STOP! STOP! Let's try chanting JAI SACI-NANDANA!! (Swarup Damodar leads kirtan)

Caitanya: Hari Bol!!! (Music) When I saw the Yamuna, I went to Vrndavana. There I saw the son of Nanda maharaj, Krsna, performing His sporting pastimes. Krsna was in the water of the Yamuna with the gopis, headed by Srimate Radharani. They were enjoying with great pleasure! What a big water fight Krsna and the gopis had! They were splashing water back

and forth and the shower of water was so great that it was impossible to determine which side was winning and which side was losing. Krsna expanded Himself into as many forms as there were gopis. Krsna looked just like a blackish cloud and the gopis were just like streaks of lightning! When I saw all this, My mind became very happy. Then, all of a sudden, you created a great noise and picked Me up and brought Me here. Where is the Yamuna? Where are Krsna and the gopis? You have broken My happy dream! Why have you brought Me here?

Swarup: My Lord, mistaking the sea for the Yamuna River You jumped in and You were carried all the way here by the waves of the sea. A fisherman caught You in his net and simply by touching You, he is now mad with ecstatic love of Krsna! We walked all night and after seeing the fisherman and hearing his story, we came here and found You.

In Your dream, You were seeing Lord Krsna's pastimes, but seeing You unconscious caused great agony in our minds! We then chanted the Holy name in Your ears and You have awakened. Let us go and bathe in the sea. (Music)

Narrator: Krsna das Kaviraj says, "Anyone who listens to this Pastime will certainly take shelter at the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu."

Lord Caitanya's Visit to Vrndavana
by Sankirtan dasa

Scene One

1st Villager: Come, let's hurry, Lord Caitanya is taking lunch at Akrura tirtha! Let us go quickly to see Him!

2nd Villager: See Him! Why, wherever He goes He attracts such big crowds that one can hardly catch a glimpse of Him!

1st Villager: Yes, that's a fact. And sometimes, when He goes to a solitary place, people find out where He went and they rush off and go there at once. But He is such a great saint, even to catch a glimpse is worth the endeavor. Why, did you know that when He went to the place of Krsna-Rasalila He fell down and lost consciousness and when He regained His senses He rolled on the ground, laughing and crying. Sometimes He got up to dance and then He'd fall down again. Who can understand His mind?

3rd Villager: My friends, Krsna has manifested in Vrndavan.

1st Villager: Well, let's go then!

2nd Villager: Yes, I want to see this.

Scene Two

Brahman: My Lord, here in this grove there is shade and quiet.

Balabhadra: Yes, here You can chant the Holy Name without disturbance.

Caitanya: You are always looking after My well-being. I am eternally indebted to both of you.
(He sits down to chant.)

Brahmana: While the Lord wanders through Vrndavana, He forgets Himself completely. I am afraid that he will hurt Himself.

Balabhadra: I am also afraid for Him. When Lord Caitanya was elsewhere, the very name of Vrndavana caused Him to increase His ecstatic love for Krsna and grow faint. Now that He is actually in Vrndavana, His mind is absorbed day and night in great ecstasy. He eats and bathes simply out of habit. So, you watch from here and I'll watch from the road to insure that no one disturbs Him.

Brahmana: Since He's come to Vrndavana, everyone is mad after Lord Caitanya. Wherever He goes, thousands crowd around, eager to see Him, chanting "Gouranga! Gouranga!! Hari Bol, Hari Bol!" Even in the forest, the animals come to Him. The deer follow Him and the peacocks dance joyously around Him. Sometimes, the cows come running from the pastures, mooing loudly and lick His body in great affection. The trees bow down and offer Him their fruit and flowers. And He embraced every one. With tears in His eyes, He would say "Chant Hare Krsna! " and all moving and non-moving creatures began to vibrate the transcendental sound *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
And thus all the living beings became jubilant to see the Lord. It was

like the happy reunion of old friends.

(two men enter)

What are you doing here? What do you want?

1st Man: We came to see Lord Caitanya.

Brahmana: That's impossible. It's out of the question. Go away. He's busy chanting the Holy Name.

Balabhadra: (enters) Who are these two men? Who said they could come here?

Brahmana: They were just leaving.

2nd Man: We are leaders of the community here. We wanted to talk to Lord Caitanya.

Balabhadra: Then come back later. We can't have people bothering Him day and night. The Lord needs peace and quiet to chant His prayers. So please leave.

Caitanya: Please, I am finished; let them stay. . . Please come forward. Sit down.

1st Man: Thank you, we are leaders of our community.

2nd Man: Yes and we came here to talk with you, to ask some questions.

Caitanya: I am honored, but first, I wish to ask you something.

1& 2: Yes, yes, of course!

Caitanya: I do not know the aim of life very well. Please tell Me, what is the best ideal for humanity and how is it attained?

1st Man: Well, one must be dutiful to his community, to his family and to the forefathers. One must perform his duties according to his caste and ultimately one can achieve the highest goal of life.

2nd Man: Best of all is to be born in a brahman family!

1st Man: Yes, that is best, but whatever, one should work in his caste and then God will be pleased.

Caitanya: According to the scriptures, the process of hearing and chanting the Holy Names is the best means to attain loving service to God.

1st Man: But does he not have to be a brahman? The temple worship is performed only by brahmans.

Caitanya: And if one is not a brahman?

2nd Man: If he is pious, then in his next life, he will be born in a brahman family. Then he can study the Vedas and perform sacrifice.

Caitanya: My friends, you have not described the ultimate objective.

1st Man: Indeed, this is the way of our Hindu religion!

Caitanya: But in the Bhagavad Gita, Krsna tells us to abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender to Him. Therefore, that person who keeps the Holy Name upon his lips becomes greater than any brahman. Even if one was born in a low family of meat-eaters and by material considerations is considered to the lowest caste of man - he is still glorious. This is the wonderful effect of Krsna's Holy Names - that they can purify one of all sinful habits and put one on the topmost platform. It should be understood that whoever takes up the holy name of Krsna has performed all kinds of austerities and great sacrifices. He has taken bath in all the holy places and he has studied all the Vedas. Such a person, born anywhere in the world, actually becomes a real brahmana. So, whether one is born as a sudra or an untouchable - regardless of what his position in society is - he can become a spiritual master if he knows the science of Krsna.

(Krsna das runs in)

Das: Ohh excuse me I did not mean to interrupt.

Caitanya: Who are you? Where do you come from?

Dasa: My name is Krsna dasa. I am a most fallen householder. I belong to the Rajaput caste and my home is just on the other side of the Yamuna River.

Caitanya: What has brought you here?

Dasa: My Lord, today I had a dream and according to that dream I have come here and found You. My Lord, I wish to be the servant of a Vaisnava.

Caitanya: (rises and embraces him) You are glorious!
(Krsna das begins to dance and chant - everyone joins in.)

Dasa: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Villagers rush in)

1st Villager: My Lord, we have great news, wonderful news!

2nd Villager: Krsna has again manifested Himself in Vrndavana!

3rd Villager: Yes, on the Kaliya lake, He dances on the hoods of the Kaliya serpent just as He did thousands of years ago!

1st Villager: Yes, we have seen Lord Krsna directly. Of this there is no doubt.
(All the villagers agree.)

Caitanya: Then, everything is correct.

1st Man: If this is so I would like to see it!

2nd Man: Yes, can you show us?

1st Villager: Yes, of course. Come along. Come along. We will take you to that very spot.
(The men leave with the Villagers. Bala begins to go too, but stops.)

Balabhadra: My Lord, please give me permission to go see Lord Krsna directly!

Caitanya: Nonsense, nonsense! You are a learned scholar, but you have become a fool influenced by the statement of other fools. Why should Krsna appear in this age of quarrel and hypocracy? These foolish people are mistaken. They have so many mistaken ideas, and with these ideas they are disturbing the minds of people in general. Don't be mad. Sit down and chant.

Balabhadra: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Caitanya: Tomorrow night you will go and see Krsna.

Balabhadra: Yes, my Lord.
(sits down and chants)
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Brahmana: Glorious is that devotee who does not give up the shelter of his Lord, and glorious is that Lord who does not abandon his servant. But, if by chance a servant falls down and goes elsewhere, glorious is that master who captures him and brings him back by the hair.

Caitanya: My dear Balabhadra, you don't have to stay here. Why don't you go home to your family?

Balabhadra: Oh Lord, I beg You, please let me remain at Your side! I don't know when I'll get Your association again!

Caitanya: In this age of Kali, Lord Krsna has appeared in the form of His Holy Name. So, I am chanting and if you also chant Krsna's Name, then we will never be separated.

Narrator: Whoever got to see Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu would feel himself overwhelmed with ecstatic love and would begin to chant the Hare Krsna mantra. Whoever met Lord Caitanya became a Vaisnava. In this way, all the towns and villages, one after another, entered into the transcendental pastimes of Lord Caitanya.
(The two men return speaking to each other.)

Caitanya: So, have you seen Krsna?

1st Man: People gather by the lake - they think they see Krsna, but it is an illusion.

2nd Man: Tonight a fisherman was out in his boat holding a lighted torch. He catches many fish like this. The foolish people imagine the boat in the mist to be the Kaliya serpent and the torchlight to be the jewels on his many heads.

1st Man: And they mistake the fisherman for Krsna.

2nd Man: Actually, Lord Krsna has returned to Vrndavana. And it is true that people have seen Him. But where they are seeing Krsna is their mistake. It is like mistaking a shriveled up tree to be a person.

Caitanya: Then, where have you see Krsna?

2nd Man: You are a sannyasi, a renunciate, therefore, You are a moving Narayana.

1st Man: Yes, You have appeared in Vrndavana as an incarnation of Krsna. Just by seeing You, everyone is now liberated.

Caitanya: Vishnu! Vishnu! Ohhh do not call Me the Supreme Lord! A jiva can never become Krsna at any time. Do not even say such a thing. A foolish man who says that the Supreme Lord is the same as a living entity is an atheist. Krsna is like the sun, full of all opulences and the living entity is only a fragment of the complete whole.

1st Man: My Lord, no one considers You an ordinary human being. You are like Krsna in every respect. And although Your body has covered Your original complexion, we can see that You are none other than the Son of Nanda, Krsna.

2nd Man: Your qualities cannot be concealed by any means. They are uncommon and beyond our imagination. Simply by seeing You, the entire universe becomes mad with ecstatic love of Krsna.

1st Man: Please accept us as Your servants!

Caitanya: My dear friends, may Lord Krsna bestow His causeless mercy upon you so that you may reach the ocean of transcendental love. Always keep Krsna's Holy Names upon your lips and serve His devotees. Please go now and return to your home.
(all exit except for Lord Caitanya)

Scene Four

Narrator: Everyone was astonished to see the uncommon activities of Lord Caitanya - that He could awaken Love of God within the hearts of all, both human beings and animals alike. The Lord remained for some time at the bathing ghat of Akrura tirtha and as He sat by its bank, He gazed into the water and began to think of Akrura.

Caitanya: At this bathing ghat, Akrura saw Vaikuntha, the spiritual world. He stood here in its waters and saw Balarama turn into Sesa Naga and Krsna turn into Maha Vishnu. The two Brothers were encircled by the demigods and Gandharvas, as well as great sages and devotees like Prahlad and Sri Narada Muni. Being overwhelmed by this vision, Akrura shivered and began to pray:
"My dear Lord, I here pay my respectful obeisances unto You because You are the Supreme cause of all causes, the original inexhaustible Personality, Narayana ...
(Lord Caitanya faints and falls)

Dasa: Help! Help! Lord Caitanya is drowning! Help!

Balabhadra: (enters) What happened?

Das: There in the water - Lord Caitanya is drowning!
(They save Lord Caitanya)

Balabhadra: My Lord, please do not frighten us in this way.

Caitanya: I'm alright, just chant Hare Krsna.
(Brahmana enters hurriedly.)

Balabhadra: (to Brahmana) I'm glad you've come. Lord Caitanya almost drowned today.

Brahmana: What?

Balabhadra: He's safe now, but I'm worried. The Lord is always very ecstatic and emotional, what if something happens to Him when I'm not there. Sometimes there are such large crowds, so much disturbance. It's not good. I think we should get Lord Caitanya out of Vrndavana.

Brahmana: I also worry. Let's take Him to Prayaga. We'll go along the bank of the Ganges; it will be very pleasant for Him. Why don't you talk with Lord Caitanya, tell Him how unhappy you are and how much you would like to go to Prayag.
(They approach Lord Caitanya)

Balabhadra: My Lord, I can no longer tolerate the disturbance of the crowds. People come all day long. Early in the morning they come here and, not seeing You present they press upon me their requests, questions and needs. My Lord, if we could all go to Prayaga, I would be very happy.

Caitanya: Balabhadra Prabhu, I have no desire to leave Vrndavana.

Brahmana: My Lord, my mind has become so agitated. I cannot bear the anxiety. My Lord, may everything rest upon Your permission. I will accept whatever You say.

Caitanya: You have brought Me to Vrndavana; I am very indebted to you. I will never be able to repay this debt. So, I will do whatever you desire.

Balabhadra: I feel relieved. Now we can go.

Das: My Lord, rest assured, I know the path very well. It will be a most enjoyable trip.

Narrator: And so Lord Caitanya and His party started for Prayag, and after some time stopped to rest.

Caitanya: I see that you are all tired. Let us sit beneath this tree for awhile. From here we can see the cows grazing in the pasture accompanied by the cowherd boys. (hears flute) That sound -Krsna's flute!!
(He faints)

Balabhadra: What shall we do?

Brahmana: He has stopped breathing!

Das: What should we do now??
(Soldiers enter)

Captain: What's this? What are you men up to? Some foul play, I suspect.

1st Soldier: This sannyasi probably had a large quantity of gold.

2nd Soldier: And these rogues must have poisoned Him and stolen His riches.

3rd Soldier: And we caught them right in the act!

Captain: Arrest them. It doesn't look good for you at all. You will all be put to death for this.

Brahmana: You Pathana soldiers are all under the protection of our king. Let us go to your commander and get his decision.

Captain: And who are you, sir?

Brahmana: I am a brahmana from Mathura and I know many ministers at the court of the Mohammedan king.

Captain: Do you, now!? Well, that won't save your neck.

3rd Soldier: It sure won't - you're talking to the king's son!
(They all laugh.)

Brahmana: We haven't done anything wrong. This sannyasi is my spiritual master. At times, He falls unconscious due to some disease. Please, just wait, you'll see. He will soon regain His consciousness.

Dasa: Yes, yes - sit down. Keep us under arrest and when He regains His senses, you can question Him. Then, if you like, you can kill us all.

1st Soldier: He's not even breathing, he's gone!

Captain: You're all rogues and liars! Don't give me any more Back-talk! Look at this one **(points to Balabhadra)** he's scared stiff! It proves you're guilty!

Dasa: **Y**ou can't do this! I live here and I have two hundred Turkish soldiers and a hundred cannons at my disposal. If I call loudly, they will come at once and kill you, plundering your horses and saddles.

2nd Soldier: Captain, let's kill them now.

Dasa: Why, you're the real rogues! You're just looking for some excuse to kill pilgrims.
(awkward silence)

Caitanya: Hari! Hari!
(He dances and the soldiers recoil in fear.)

Balabhadra: My Lord! My Lord, there are some gentlemen here!

Caitanya: Who?

Captain: I am Vijuli Khan, Captain of this troop and at Your service! These rogues poisoned You and robbed You!

Caitanya: Captain, these men are not rogues; they are My friends. I am a sannyasi and do not possess anything.

Captain: They didn't poison you?

Caitanya: Oh no, due to epilepsy I sometimes fall unconscious and, out of their mercy, these men take care of Me.

(A Moslem Priest travelling with the soldiers steps forward)

Priest: O Holy Man, to look upon You gladdens my heart! I wish to speak with You.

Caitanya: Yes, what do you want to speak about?

Priest: About the all-pervading light which encompasses You and I and all men! The Holy Koran says that Allah is light. He is present in paradise as light. Allah is the light of the heavens and earth. It is said -"Light upon Light."

Caitanya: And in the next breath it is written that Allah coins metaphors for men. He has knowledge of all things.

Priest: The Absolute Truth is beyond words and time and space. It cannot be grasped by our limited minds.

Caitanya: No, we cannot understand God by our own endeavor but, if He reaches out and gives us understanding,who are we to push it away. The Koran has certainly established impersonalism, but in the end it refutes oneness and mystic power and all other speculations and it establishes the Personal God.

Priest: But ultimately we are all one.

Caitanya: No, the Koran accepts that ultimately there is one God, who is full of opulence and whose complexion is blackish. He is all-pervading, omniscient, eternal being, the origin of everything and we are His servants. Service to Him will free us from the repetition of birth and death. Love at His Lotus Feet is the ultimate goal of life. The Koran may prescribe so many things, but the ultimate conclusion of devotional service to the Supreme Lord should be considered the most powerful. You have studied this in your own Koran, so tell me, what is your conclusion?

Priest: All that You have said is true, but our scholars can neither understand nor accept it. Usually, they describe the Lord's impersonal aspect. They have no knowledge of how to worship the Lord's personal feature And You, my Lord, are that very same Personality Yourself. Please be merciful to me! I was born in a family of dog-eaters and although people call me a saint, I have no real understanding of the soul, nor of the Soul of souls. You have opened my eyes and my false prestige is gone. Now that I see You, my tongue begins to chant

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

O My Lord!

(offers obeisances)

Caitanya: Please get up. By chanting the Holy Names, the sin you have incurred for millions of lives is now gone. You are now pure and from this day forward you will be known as Rama dasa. Throw away your spears and take up the weapon of the Holy Names. Chant Hare Krsna

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

(Captain falls flat, others kneel)

Captain: My Lord, I am a foolish rascal. I have no good qualities.

Caitanya: (puts His Lotus Foot on the Captain's head) Now, you have all good qualities. You will be known as the Pathana Vaisnavas and I request you to take the Holy Names to every town and village, all over the world. Hari Bol! Hari Bol! Chant Hare Krsna!!

(Kirtan)

Lord Nityananda and the Dacoits

Narrator: In Navadvipa, there lived a brahmana's son who had no peer among thieves. He was a brahmana in name only; his heart was filled with evil. There was no mercy in his body and he commandeered an army of thieves. He had the good fortune to see the transcendental form of Nityananda Prabhu while the Lord stayed at the home of Hiranya Pandit, but this Chief of Thieves only saw Nityananda Prabhu as a candidate to be plundered.

Nityananda Prabhu had many devotees who were goldsmiths and jewelers, so they had given Nityananda Prabhu many costly ornaments. He wore golden earring and bracelets and around His neck swung beautiful necklaces of pearls and coral.

Seeing the jewels decorating the limbs of Nityananda Prabhu the thief made up his mind that his companions would waylay Nityananda Prabhu so that he could rob the Lord of His ornaments.

Chief: O my brothers why should we be unhappy any longer?
Mother Durga has brought a great treasure house of wealth to a place nearby. On the limbs of avadhuta Nityananda are many ornaments of gold, diamonds and pearls. I have never seen the likes of these ornaments! What is the monetary value of these ornaments? I do not know. It is surely Mother Durga's mercy upon us that she has put them all in one place. In half an hour, we can be at Hiranya Pandit's property where we will easily take possession of these ornaments!

Thieves: (Cheers, clash of weapons etc.)

Narrator: Armed with swords, daggers and tridents, the thieves proceeded to the home of Hiranya Pandit. There, Nityananda Prabhu was honoring prasadam with His associates. Nityananda Prabhu's companions were wild with the ecstasy of love for Krsna: one devotee roared like a lion; another made a sound like thunder. Another, tasting the nectar of love of Krsna wept. Another clapped his hands and loudly laughed.

Chief: The Avadhuta is presiding over a feast for His followers. After eating, they will soon fall asleep. Then, we will attack!

2nd Thief: The gold bracelets are mine!

3rd Thief: I will take the pearl necklace!

4th Thief: I will take His earrings!

5th Thief: I will take the silver necklace!

Narrator: Their minds became absorbed in these thoughts. But their eyes were veiled to Nityananda Prabhu's true nature and to the real benefits to be had by His association. After some time, the thieves fell asleep bewildered by the Lord's Maya. When the crows cawed in the morning, the thieves awakened.

2nd Thief: You fell asleep first!

3rd Thief: You slept very soundly!

Chief: Why should we quarrel? Whatever happened is by Mother Durga's will. One day has passed but does that mean that all the days have gone? I think that Mother Durga has bewildered us just to remind us that we need to worship her for her assistance before we attempt to execute our thieving plans.

3rd Thief: Yes,that must be it!
(They all leave.)

Narrator: The thieves went to the Durga temple and worshiped her properly, returning in the evening to the property of Hiranya Pandit. However, this time they were amazed to see many tall men guarding the house in four directions. The guards appeared to be giants. They were powerful and ferocious. They held their swords raised and ready for combat. They wore flower garlands around their necks, sandalwood paste on their limbs and they constantly chanted the Holy Names of Krsna in their deep, rumbling voices.

The thieves saw that each of those giants had the power to kill a hundred thieves and they became fearful and left the property to meet and determine further strategy.

2nd Thief: Now where did those guards come from??

3rd Thief: Somehow, the avadhuta must have found out about our plans. He must have asked his host to bring the guard here.

4th Thief: My brothers, this avadhuta is a great sage and a philosopher. Again and again I have heard this!

2nd Thief: So? Who cares?

4th Thief: Such an avadhuta can protect Himself! We all saw those guards; I don't think they were human beings. I think that this avadhuta has great mystic powers. I have heard the people around Him call Him Nitai Gosai. We have no fear of government, heroes or other crooks but we should not make the mistake of offending One with genuine Spiritual powers!!

5th Thief: My brother, you are a fool. I don't see any Great One! How can anyone who eats as He does and decorates Himself with fancy clothes and jewels as He does, be a Gosai!?

Chief: I know the reason for the guards. While we were inattentive, some big, important person must have come to see the avadhuta. Yes, an emissary of the king must have come to the home of Hiranya Pandit. The giants were his personal bodyguards. Who else could have retained them? As well, those bodyguards were religious fanatics; that is why they chanted "Hari Hari."

2nd Thief: So, how are we going to get the jewels!?

Chief: While the guards are there, we should not attack. After some days, they will leave; for now go back to your hideouts. For ten days we will lie quietly and wait.

Narrator: When the leader of the dacoits spoke like this, all the thieves returned to their homes and Nityananda Prabhu, the moon of avadhutas, enjoyed pastimes as He wished.

Devotee: Whoever worships Lord Nityananda's lotus feet, or remembers them, breaks all obstacles in his spiritual path to pieces! Who has the power to place obstacles before Lord Nityananda?

2nd Devotee: By His own will, Lord Nityananda performed kirtan in all of Navadvip. By His own will, He enjoyed pastimes of feasting and chanting. Decorated with priceless ornaments, He looked exactly like Rohini's son, Balaramaji.

3rd Devotee: Lord Nityananda chewed betel nuts mixed with camphor; His gentle smile charms the hearts of every person in the world. Fearless and blissful, He is always accompanied by fearless and blissful devotees.

Narrator: The thieves again made a plan to rob Lord Nityananda of His jewels and came to the house of Hiranya Pandit. By the Lord's arrangement, there were great clouds over the house. The darkness was blinding; the night was very fearsome. No one could walk anywhere for fear of falling. On that terrible night, each thief had armed himself with five or ten weapons. They approached the house to attack but suddenly every thief became blind. Each one felt that his mind, intelligence and even his very breath was under attack by an unseen force. One of them fell into a ditch and was ferociously bitten by mosquitoes and leeches. Another fell into a garbage pit and was stung by scorpions. Another fell into a hedge of thorn bushes. His every limb wounded by the thorns, he had no power to move. Another burned with fever. In this way, the thieves were made to experience great difficulty. Every thief felt abject terror in his heart.

At that time, the demigod Indra sent a torrential rainstorm to that very place. Then, hailstones fell on the thieves' bodies. Now blind and attacked by freezing rain, the thieves were on the verge of death. Their bodies trembled from the freezing cold. They could not save their own lives or those of their family members with them and this plunged them into an ocean of suffering and remorse. They cried out, "Alas, my life is at an end!"

After some time, the brahmana who was the commander of that army of thieves suddenly became fortunate. Now, perhaps due to the religious training of his youth, he understood the nature of this dire situation. In his heart, the brahmana thought:

Chief: This Nityananda Prabhu is not an human being! In truth, He must be the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Himself!! How can anyone say that He is an ordinary avadhuta!? One day, He bewildered us and made us fall asleep. Still, because of His powerful illusory energy, I did not understand that this was done by His influence.

Another day, He showed us many wonderful guards. Even though these guards were unlike any persons previously seen, still we did not understand!

I am a great sinner! Everything that I do is very bad! In my heart, I wanted to rob the Supreme Lord of His wealth and use it for my own purposes. Only when the Lord threw me into such awesome calamities where I could not doubt His power to kill me or protect me was I able to see His real position. Now, I long for nothing else but His service! The service to Lord Nityananda is my only shelter!

Narrator: Thinking in this way, the brahmana meditated on Lord Nityananda's lotus feet. With great love, he took shelter of them and

surrendered himself to them. When the brahmana perfectly meditated upon Lord Nityananda's lotus feet, all the calamities suddenly stopped, At that moment, the brahmana became free of many millions of his past offenses.

Chief: Save me! Save me, O Nityananda, O Cowherd Boy, Krsna, O Master, Protector of All Living Entities, please save me! A person who trips and falls to the ground takes shelter of the earth. In the same way, a person who commits offenses against You must meditate upon You. You forgive all offenses. You are merciful to the fallen. I have killed many brahmanas. I have even killed many cows. O Lord, no one is a greater offender than I am. O Lords, please protect me today from the danger of offending brahmanas. If I remain alive, I will have learned my lesson.

Narrator: Hearing these words, merciful Lord Nityananda delivered all the thieves. In this way, the thieves became conscious again and their eyes were suddenly released from blindness. The commander of that little army wept and wept. In his heart, he constantly took shelter of Lord Nityananda's lotus feet.

Chief: (prays) Lord, I am a brahmana in name only! My actions are those of a hunter or a candala! By always associating with wicked people, I became a murderous thief. From the time of my birth, I have not done anything but that. But, by Your mercy, I had the good fortune to realize Your lotus feet. Simply by thinking of You, we have regained our sight and escaped the tortures of Yamaraj that we have earned by our crooked and offensive ways! How great Your mercy is Lord Nityananda!

Lord Nityananda: Listen, brahmana. If you commit no more sins, I will accept your karma. Give up violence, theft and all misdeeds. Do them no more and do not live among the thieves and the criminals. Rather, bring them all to the path of religosity.

Narrator: Speaking these words, Lord Nityananda took the garland from His own neck and happily gave it to the brahmana. Then, there was a great sound of JAYA! JAYA! The brahmana fell to the ground, his words choked by emotions and he grasped Lord Nityananda's two lotus feet.

Chief: Lord Nityananda, Master Purifier of all Sinners, please give me the shelter of Your lotus feet. In my heart, I had wished You harm; who, therefore is more of a sinner than me?

Narrator: Then Lord Nityananda, Who is an ocean of mercy, placed His lotus feet on the head of the brahmana who had lived his life as a thief and all his offenses were smashed to pieces and became vanished. Whenever thieves came to his door, the brahmana guided them on the path of religion. He taught them to take shelter of the process of Sankirtan.

Chief: O my brothers, please worship Lord Nityananda! By His mercy, you will attain Lord Krsna!

Lord Caitanya and Lord Nityananda Take Prasadam At the Home of Advaita Acarya

SCENE ONE

Advaita: Now, please come in, sit here as my guest of honor. Excuse Me for one moment while I make the offering to Lord Vishnu.
(Advaita Acarya sings and rings a small bell while offering incense and a flower to His Deities. Then there is music while he transfers the plates and sets the prasadam on a short legged table as Sri Caitanya and Sri Nityananda watch.)

Caitanya: This is incredible! I will personally take on My head, birth after birth, the lotus feet of anyone who is able to offer to Lord Vishnu such nice preparations as these!

Advaita: Please sit down right here to honor the Lord's remnants. Just sit down here on these seats.
(Advaita Acharya lays two mats on the floor. Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu sit down.)

Caitanya: Actually, it is not proper for a sanyassi to eat such a variety of foodstuff. If he does, how can he control his senses?

Advaita: With all due respect, My Lord, We know Who You are and why You took sanyassa. Please honor this prasadam.

Caitanya: Well, I certainly cannot eat so much.

Advaita: Simply accept the prasada. What You cannot eat, simply leave on Your plate.

Caitanya: It is not the duty of a sanyassi to leave remnants.

Advaita: What three people can eat is nothing for You. In Your Universal Form, You are devouring the three worlds. It is My great fortune that You have blessed My home by coming here. Please, just begin eating and do not talk anymore.
(Advaita Acharya pours water for His Guests as They wash Their hands. There is music or a bhajana as Sri Caitanyan and Nityananda Prabhu eat with great enthusiasm. Advaita Acarya looks on.)

Nityananda: (jokingly) I have been fasting for three days and I had certainly hoped to break my fast today. But, I can see that our good Acharya intends for Me to continue My fast. Such a small quantity of foodstuff as this will not even half fill my belly.

Advaita: Sir, You are simply a beggar travelling on pilgrimages. Sometimes You eat fruits and roots or fast for days. I am a poor Brahmana; please just be satisfied with whatever You get and give up this greedy mentality.

Nityananda: Whatever I may be, you have invited me so You must give Me as much as I want.

Advaita: You are a reject Paramahamsa and have accepted the guise of renunciation just to fill Up Your belly. I can see that You like to give trouble to poverty-stricken Brahmans. How shall I get so much rice? Please eat what is there and then go away. It is madness to throw food around like this.
(Advaita Acharya serves more prasada.)

Caitanya: How much more can I go on eating?

Advaita: Just try to eat at least half of what is there now.

Nityananda: My belly is not yet half full! Please take away Your grudgingly given food. I have not taken the least of it!!
(Nityananda Prabhu, feigning anger, scatters rice in all directions.)

Advaita: (Dancing blissfully when Nityananda Prabhu's remnants touch Him) My dear Lord Nityananda, I have invited You and indeed I have received the results!! You are a madman; and
to make Me a madman, too, You have showered the remnants of Your plate on Me.

Nityananda: These are the remnants of food left by Lord Krsna. If You think they are ordinary, then you have committed a great offense. And only by inviting at least one hundred sanyassis to
Your home and feeding them sumptuously, can You nullify the offense.

Advaita: I shall never again invite another sannyasi for a sannyasi has spoiled all my Brahminical regulations, (to Sri Caitanya) Please accept just one more serving!

Caitanya: No more, please! I beg of You!

Advaita: Then please come wash Your hands and lie down to take rest for a while.

SCENE TWO Kirtan at the Home of Advaita Acarya

(Advaita Acharya and several devotees are having a lively kirtan when Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu enter. All offer obeisances.)

Advaita: My dear friends, what shall I say? Today has been a day of the highest transcendental
pleasure. After many days of waiting and praying, Lord Krsna has come to bless My humble home.

Devotees: Hari Bol!
(They start the kirtan again. Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu dance. Advaita Acarya tries to touch Sri Caitanya's Lotus Feet.)

Advaita: For many days, You escaped Me, but now that I have You, I will keep You bound up by the ropes of My love!
(Sri Caitanya swoons and almost falls in kirtan. Nityananda Prabhu supports Sri Caitanya so that He won't fall again. Then, Sri Caitanya's mother, Sacimata, enters.)

Caitanya: Mother!!
(Sri Caitanya falls at her feet. She helps Sri Caitanya up and embraces Him, crying.)

Sacimata: My darling Nimai, do not be cruel like Your elder brother, Visvarupa. After accepting the renounced order, He left us ... and we haven't seen or heard from Him since! We don't know if He's living or dead! Please don't do that. If You do, it will certainly be the death of me!!

Caitanya: My dear Mother, please listen to Me. This body comes from you, it was raised by you
it belongs to you. I cannot repay My debt to you in millions of years. I have accepted the renounced order, true, but I shall never be indifferent to you. I will do whatever you like. But, make some arrangement so that I may not leave you and, at the same time, people may not blame Me for remaining with relatives after taking sanyassa.

Sacimata: It will be the greatest happiness for me if my beloved Nimai stays here. But, at the Same consideration and this is my opinion: if Nimai remains fairly close by - in nearby Orissa at Jagannatha Puri, I think everyone will be satisfied. People are always coming and going between here and there and, in this way, I will be able to get news of You every now and again.
Really, I do not care about my own happiness, but only for Your happiness.

All: All Glories to Mother Saci! Sacimata ki jaya!

Caitanya: If this is your desire, then I ask your permission to spend My days in Jagannath Puri. I assure you all that I will return again and again. Lastly, You had blamed Your unhappiness on Advaita Acharya thinking that he had persuade Me to take sannyasa and in this way you created an offense to Advaita Acharya. It was solely my idea to take sannyasa in order to gain the respect of the mayavadi sannyasis. You may mitigate this offense by bowing down and taking the dust of Sri Advaita's lotus feet upon your head. (She does this.)

All: Sri Advaita ki jaya! Mother Saci Ki jaya! Sri Caitanya ki jaya!!

Caitanya: You are all My intimate friends. Now I am begging on last favor of You. Please return home and always chant the Holy Name in the association of devotees, worship Sri Krsna, chant His Holy Name and discuss His inconceivable Pastimes among yourselves. Thank you.

All: Jaya! Hari Bol! Jaya Sri Caitanya! Jai Nimai Nitai! Nitai Gauranga! Jai!
(Kirtan starts again, Sri Caitanya and Nityananda Prabhu dance.)

Madhavenda Puri's Devotional Service

Narrator: One day, on Their way to Jagannath Puri, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and four of His associates stopped in the village of Remuna where the beautiful Deity of Gopinatha resides. Lord Caitanya narrated the story of how the Deity had become famous as Ksira-cora Gopinaha as He had heard it from His spiritual master, Iswara Puri.

(Madhavendra Puri may act scenes out.)

Caitanya: Once, on his way to Vrndavana, Madhavendra Puri stopped at the holy site of Govardhan Hill. After reverently circumambulating the hill, he proceeded on to Govinda Kunda, where he took his bath and then sat under a tree to rest for the night. While sitting there, an unknown cowherd boy came and placed a pot of milk before him.

Gopal: Please drink this milk. Why don't you beg some food to eat? What kind of meditation are you practicing?

Madhavendra: Who are You? Where do You live? How did You know that I have been fasting?

Gopal: I am a cowherd boy and in my village, no one fasts. If someone doesn't ask for food, I supply all of his eatables. The women who come here told Me about you. I have to go milk my cows, now, but I will be back to get the milk pot.

Caitanya: Saying this, the Boy left. Madhavendra Puri thought, "Whyis my heart filled with wonder? Why does this Boy remind me of my Lord, Krsna?" After drinking the milk, he washed the pot and set it aside. Not being able to sleep, he sat and chanted the Hare Krsna Mahamantra. At the end of the night, he dozed a little and had a dream. In this dream, the same cowherd boy appeared, took Madhavendra Puri by the hand and led him to a bush deep in the Vrndavan forest.

Gopal: I live in this bush but I suffer very much because of the cold, rains, winds and scorching heat. Please get the village people to take me out of here and put Me on the hill. They should build a temple and install Me by washing Me with cold water.

You should know that, after watching you, I have been wondering when you would come and serve Me. My name is Gopal and I am the lifter of Govardhan Hill. When the Mohammedans attacked, the priest hid Me here out of fear. Then, he left and I have been here all that time. Now, please remove Me with care.

Caitanya: After this, Gopal disappeared and Madhavendra Puri woke up and lamented, "Alas! I saw Lord Krsna directly but I could not recognize Him!" After this, Madhavendra Puri gathered the village people and told them of the Lord's desire.

Villager: Let's get our choppers!

2nd Villager: But, it will be so difficult!

3rd Villager: Come, now! We must try.

Caitanya: So, they went to get their choppers. They chopped and chopped, the jungle was very overgrown in that spot but finally, they did find the Gopal Deity and they carried Him to the hill and began the installation

ceremony.

Madhavendra: Have everyone bring as much water as you can carry!

Caitanya: The atmosphere was very festive. There were musical sounds of bugles and drums and all the women were singing. The women began to cook their best preparations and decorate the hillside with flowers.

Villager: Let us now prepare for the abhiseka! Gather flowers and fruits!

2nd Villager: Hurry, we must make the garlands!

3rd Villager: Yes, here are the flowers!

Narrator: When the villagers brought all their ghee, milk, yoghurt, rice , dahl and wheat flour, it completely covered the hill. They also brought cooked preparations, sweets, Tulasi leaves, flowers and cloth.

(Brahma Samhita chanting begins.) Then, Madhavendra Puri began the abhiseka by massaging the Deity's body with oil. Gopal was then bathed in panca-gavya and panchamrta, then ghee and water from 100 pots. Gopal was again massaged with oil, bathed in scented water and was dressed in new garments. He was adorned with garlands, Tulasi leaves and sandalwood pulp. Incense and lamps were burned and foodstuffs such as yoghurt, milk and sweets were prepared as an offering to Gopal. He was then offered water for washing His mouth along with pan and spices. Madhavendra Puri then offered artik and everyone fell flat before the Deity in full surrender.

After the artik, ten brahmanas cooked the food grains and five brahmanas cooked both dry and liquid vegetables.

Villager: Bring in the pots!

2nd Villager: Let's get our rolling pins and make the chapatis!

3rd Villager: I'll get the dough ready!

Narrator: Several of the women made chapatis with ghee. The rice and chapatis were placed on large palasa leaves and the wet preparations were placed in new clay pots before Gopal. When the Annakuta ceremony was performed, Gopal, who had been very hungry, ate everything and, by His mercy, left everything as before. Only Madhavendra Puri could perceive how G ate everything while the food remained.

After the Lord was put to rest, Madhavendra Puri spoke to all the brahmanas.

Madhavendra: Feed everyone sumptuously! Serve everyone prasadam!

Villager: I'll serve the chapatis to everyone!

2nd Villager: We must serve the brahmanas and their wives first!

Narrator: The Annakuta ceremony took place over a period of many days. After that, the villagers continued to bring many wonderful preparations and gifts. By seeing the Lord, all of their lamentation and unhappiness disappeared.

One wealthy man had a marble temple constructed there and every family donated a cow for the prosperity of the temple. In this way, Madhavendra Puri stayed there and worshipped Gopal nicely for two years, along with two learned brahmanas. Then, Madhavendra Puri had a dream where Gopal came and spoke to him.

Gopal: My body temperature still has not decreased. Please bring Me sandalwood paste from Malasya Province and smear it all over My body. Please go quickly - only you can accomplish this task.

Narrator: Madhavendra Puri was ecstatic upon awakening and immediately went to the other brahmanas and told them how he cared for Lord Gopal. He left to get the sandalwood from Bengal. On the way, Madhavendra Puri initiated Adwaita Acharya and then started for South India. He visited Remuna where the Gopinath Deity resided. He was overwhelmed by the beauty of the Deity and the excellent arrangements made for His service. He was eager to learn from the pujaris there about their methods of Deity worship.

Madhavendra: Please tell me what foods are offered to Sri Gopinath? I want to offer the same to my Lord Gopal.

Priest: In the evening, as the Deity retires amrtakeli, a sweet milk preparation, is offered in 12 earthen pots. The taste of this sweetrice is as good as divine nectar and is known by the devotees as Gopinath-ksira. Excuse me, please, I must go now to prepare the offering.

(The priest leaves. Madhavendra Puri thinks deeply.)

Madhavendra: Hmmmm If without asking, a little sweetrice is given to me, I can then taste it and make a similar preparation for Gopal.

Narrator: Madhavendra Puri became greatly ashamed. He considered it an offense that he had desired to taste the sweetrice before it was offered to the Deity. Thinking of Lord Visnu, he offered his obeisances and quickly left the temple. Going to the empty marketplace, he sat and chanted the Holy Names. He did not even beg a little rice, for he completely depended on the mercy of the Lord. In the meantime, the priest put the Deity to rest and then took rest himself. That night, Gopinath appeared to the priest in a dream.

Gopinath: I have stolen a pot of sweetrice for the sannyassi named Madhavendra Puri. I have hidden it behind my cloth but you did not see it because of my tricks. Please take it to him in the marketplace.

Narrator: The priest awoke and immediately bathed. He went to the altar and found the pot of sweetrice exactly where the Deity said it would be. He then took it to the marketplace, calling for Madhavendra Puri.

Priest: Will the most fortunate Madhavendra Puri come and take this prasadam! Gopinath has stolen it for you!

Narrator: When the priest finally found Madhavendra Puri, he offered obeisances, falling flat before him. Madhavendra Puri took the pot ate the sweetrice in great ecstasy. He broke the pot into small pieces so that he could eat one piece of the pot ever day.

(The priest leaves.)

Madhavendra: I must leave the city, for when the devotees hear of this, they will come here to obtain blessings and favors. I shall immediately leave for Jagannath Puri.

Narrator: The reputation of Madhavendra Puri proceeded him and when he arrived in JP great crowds greeted him. Madhavendra Puri told them how the G Deity revealed Himself to the villagers in Vrndavana and how the Lord had again appeared to him in a dream to request the sandalwood. The citizens enthusiastically gathered sandalwood and camphor for Lord Gopal.

Villager: My brother knows where to get sandalwood of the finest quality. The king regularly sends for it!

2nd Villager: I have some camphor! I'll go get it!

Narrator: After he received the camphor and sandalwood, he left for Vrndavana accompanied by one brahmana and a servant. In this way, the three men carried the sandalwood, which weighed 82 pounds and eight ounces of camphor. Madhavendra Puri had been given the necessary release papers from the government and did not have to pay the toll collectors.

On their journey, they stopped in Remuna to worship Lord Gopinath. The priest was happy to see them and gave them a nice room in the temple and many pots of Gopinath-ksira. That night, Lord Gopal appeared in a dream to Madhavendra Puri:

Gopal: I have already received the sandalwood and camphor. You should now grind them together and smear the pulp on the body of Gopinath and, in this way, My body will be cooled. There is no difference between My body and the body of Gopinath. Believe in Me and do what is needed. Do not hesitate.

Madhavendra: (jumping up and waking the others) Get up! Get up!
Listen, we must grind the sandalwood with camphor and smear the cooling pulp on the body of Gopinath every day. Lord Gopal appeared again in my dream and revealed to me that He will be satisfied in this way because there is no difference between the body of Gopal and that of Gopinath! Please, we must prepare the sandalwood pulp right away!

(All hurry off.)

Caitanya: So, Madhavendra Puri stayed in Remuna for the summer
season and everyday smeared sandalwood pulp on the Gopinath Deity with great ecstacy until the entire stock was used up. He was a great renunciate and was always absorbed in ecstatic thoughts of Krsna. He used to remain completely alone for fear of talking about mundane affairs. Krsna had given him a great test but, out of his great love for Gopal, he was not disturbed by all the difficulties in obtaining the sandalwood and camphor. A pure devotee such as Madhavendra Puri does not consider personal inconveniences or impediments, he just wants to render service to Krsna.. Because of his surrender, he received the full mercy of the Lord.

Narrator: After this, Lord Caitanya and His devotees received pots of sweetrice from the priests of Lord Gopinath. Although Lord Caitanya is non-different from Gopinath, He again ate the pots of sweetrice as a devotee. Lord Caitanya and His devotees chanted throughout the night and after mangala artik, they departed. As They journeyed, They meditated on Madhavendra Puri's pure devotional service.

(Bhajan)

Nimai and the Pots

Narrator: All Glories, All Glories to Lord Gaurachandra, Who is the Supreme Lord of Lords and All Glories to His Devotees! This play depicts the childhood of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He was known as Nimai in Navadwip Dham and He was very mischievous. Although His parents tried and tried, they could not correct Him.

SCENE ONE At Home
(Nimai enters and breaks a clay pot. Saci runs in.)

Saci: Nimai, what are you doing? You've knocked over my pot! All the milk is wasted!

Nimai: Watch Me knock over another one!

Saci: Stop! This is terrible! Oh, where is Your father?

Nimai: My father is old and can do nothing to stop me.

Saci: (calls) Jagannath Misra! Would you come here, please?
(Jagannath Misra enters)

Jagannath Misra: What is the difficulty now? I'm trying to study the scriptures!

Saci: Look what Nimai has done!

Jagannath Misra: Nimai!

Nimai: My dear father, I hope that you will not chastise Me, for if you do I shall break more pots.

Jagannath Misra: Oh dear! What can be done? Whenever we correct You, You become twice as naughty!

Nimai: I am not afraid of chastisement so no one can teach Me anything. No one can correct Me.
(Visvarupa, the elder brother of Nimai enters.)

Visvarupa: Nimai, did You do this? My dear brother, You have made such a mess. Clean it up, immediately.

Nimai: Yes, Sri Visvarupa, I will clean it up. Is there anything else You'd like Me to do?
(all exit as Nimai begins to clean up. music)

Narrator: As Nimai is none other than Sri Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Nimai's elder brother, Visvarupa, is Lord Balarama. From His birth, Visvarupa was completely renounced and exhibited all saintly qualities. Nimai, although listening to neither His mother nor His father, would become meek and humble in the presence of His elder brother.

SCENE TWO At Advaita Acarya's Ashram

Advaita Acarya: Ah, Visvarupa, please come inside. We are discussing the path of Bhakti Yoga!

Visvarupa: Bhakti is the essence of all Shastra, but people neither teach Bhakti nor practice it.

Advaita Acarya: True, materialistic men find no pleasure in service to Krishna. They are too selfish.

Devotee: And too foolish! The local men in Nadia even laugh at a man just for being a Vaisnava! One foolish fellow said to me, "If even renounced sannyasis and great yogis performing austerities have to die, then what is the use of your efforts. It is better to collect money and ride on a palanquin with twenty servants running behind. Then at least your name will live on in the history of your community."

Advaita Acharya: They are mad after mundane achievements such as wealth, education and good family. They never chant Lord Hari's Names.

Visvarupa: Their ignorance fills Me with sadness!
(Nimai enters quickly)

Narrator: When Nimai entered the house of Advaita Acharya, all the devotees became stunned. He was bare chested and covered with dirt from playing. Nimai smiled and glanced all around at the devotees.

Nimai: Brother, come home and eat. Mother has sent Me to bring You home. She's waiting for You.

Devotee: Nimai! His beautiful form has charmed my heart!

Advaita Acarya: I cannot understand Who this Child is! His beauty is beyond compare!

Devotee: His smiling face and darting eyes have captured me. Now I can no longer concentrate on my studies.
(Nimai catches hold of Visvarupa's dhoti and both exit. The devotees follow Them, in a stunned condition, to the door.)

Devotee: Perhaps Nimai is a demigod Who has been sent to bewilder us with His beautiful features.

Advaita Acarya: I cannot say, but I know that He is not an ordinary child! **(music, then Visvarupa enter again)** Visvarupa, You have returned so quickly! Jai! We shall now go to the house of Srinivas Acarya for kirtana.
Visvarupa: Yes, I told my parents that I was fasting and would chant the Holy Names all through the night. **(all exit)**

SCENE THREE The Ashram of Jagannath Misra

Saci: Visvarupa spends all His time with the Vaisnavas. Even while at home, He takes no part in family affairs. Rather, he will study the scriptures and worship Salagram Sila.

Jagannath Misra: Sacidevi, I think it is time to find Visvarupa a wife.

Saci: Well, there are many nice Brahmana families in Navadvip. I have seen girls of marriageable age by the river.

Jagannath Misra: I will begin inquiring. A wife for Visvarupa will have to be very religious and gentle.
(They exit. Visvarupa enters, disturbed at what He has overheard.)

Visvarupa: My parents are going to plan my marriage?! This is terrible news! I have no desire to be entangled in material affairs! I'd rather take sannyasa and live in the forest, meditating always on Lord Krsna. I will leave tonight.
(music)

SCENE THREE The Next Day

Jagannath Misra: Oh, Visvarupa! I feel as though my life has ended! Visvarupa! Where have you gone!?

Saci: Visvarupa! Visvarupa! I cannot go on living without my son!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa! Why have you left us?!
(Devotee neighbors cone running in)

1st Devotee: What's happened? What calamity has befallen you? I've never seen you so upset!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa has left us. He's run away. We were planning His marriage ... now ... I fear he will take sannyasa, the renounced order of life! I will never see Him again!

2nd Devotee: Oh no! Visvarupa! What shall we do! He has always been such a joy to my life! **(He puts his hand on Jagannath Misra's shoulder)** My dear friend, I also feel great pain. I also love Him as a son ... but how will losing ourselves in lamentation help?

Jagannath Misra: (sigh) But ...

1st Devotee: Try thinking about it this way - what Visvarupa has done is glorious. Everyone always knew that someday he would take sannyasa and set out to preach near and far. Just think about how His taking sannyasa has delivered your entire family ...

Jagannath Misra: All I know is the pain of my heart, throbbing in separation. Oh, Visvarupa!

1st Devotee: Calm yourself. Calm yourself. Having one son like Nimai is better than having millions of sons. He has strong faith in Krsna, but He is not the renunciate type. Nimai will always stay with His friends and relatives in the village!

2nd Devotee: Yes, think about Nimai! He will remove all Your suffering! His mere glance is as cooling as the rays of the full moon!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa!

2nd Devotee: We never knew how long He would stay with us.

1st Devotee: Lord Krsna gave us Visvarupa and now the Lord Himself has taken Him back. What can be done! Whatever Lord Krsnacandra desires must certainly occur!

(music. all exit)

SCENE FOUR

Jagannath Misra: Nimai, come here and help Your Mother.

Nimai: Yes, Father.

Saci: Carry these pots, please.

Nimai: Yes, Mother. May I do anything else to help you?

Jagannath Misra: Since Your brother left, You've become so gentle and well-behaved! **(Jagannath Misra embraces Nimai.)**

Nimai: Father, may I have your permission to go and study?

Jagannath Misra: Yes, certainly, Nimai. **(Nimai leaves)**

Saci: Nimai has changed so much! Now we have nothing but praise for Him. Our neighbors say that no one can match His scholarship or defeat His arguments. He is so serious about His studies, as well.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, and that seriousness is just what frightens me.

Saci: Why? What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: It was Visvarupa's serious study of the scriptures that led Him to take sannyasa. By studying Bhagavad Gita, He learned that not a shred of value exists in material life. If Nimai continues to study, I fear He will follow His brother and take sannyasa.

Saci: (gasp) Nimai is all we have!

Jagannath Misra: If He leaves us, I will die! I must stop His studies! It is better that He remains illiterate!

Saci: But, if He is illiterate, how will He maintain Himself? And who will allow their daughter to marry Him?

Jagannath Misra: Don't worry, Krsna provides for everyone, whether the person is educated or not. And anyway, education doesn't insure wealth.

Saci: What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: Take me for example: We are sufficiently learned, but we don't even have an excess of food in our house. But there are some persons who, without even knowing the Sanskrit alphabet, are able to live in luxury. Everything depends on Krsna.

Saci: But if Nimai doesn't study, what will He do with His time?

Jagannath Misra: Anything He likes ... anything but study the scriptures! **(they exit)**

Narrator: That evening, when Nimai returned from school, He was told that His

studies were terminated. Being obedient to His Father's wishes, He remained at home. Nimai didn't complain, but He again resumed His naughty, restless behavior.

SCENE FIVE In the Courtyard

Nimai: Boys, boys! Come quickly! I have a plan!

1st Boy: Yes, yes. What is it?

2nd Boy: We're ready!

Nimai: Look at those banana trees, they are full of bananas! Let's steal them!

1st Boy: Yeah!

2nd Boy: Alright, that will be easy!

Nimai: And tonight, when it is dark we can tie the doors of our neighbors on all side with rope and in the morning, when they awaken, they will be locked inside!

1st Boy: Let's go fight with the boys in town!

Nimai: No, I know an old lady who lives near here, let's go and smash all her clay pots!

2nd Boy: Very good! Very good!

Nimai: Then we can splash old men at the Ganges River!
(they exit. music)

SCENE SIX At The Garbage Dump

Narrator: From morning 'til night, Nimai would play and cause mischief. Day after day, He made trouble but Jagannath Misra would not chastise Him. Then, one day, Nimai climbed upon a huge pile of discarded pots and told the boys to call His Mother to the spot ...

Boys: (calling) Mother Saci! Mother Saci! **(they exit, in a moment Mother Saci runs on)**

Saci: Nimai! What are You doing sitting there? Get down! Don't You know that is not a proper place to sit?

Nimai: Mother, since you have not sent Me to school, I've forgotten what is right and what is wrong.

Saci: Your clothes have become dirty. Get down quickly!

Nimai: Without an education, I am unable to realize the difference between clean and dirty.

Saci: Please don't joke with me. These pots are contaminated and You're sitting in an impure place. Climb down immediately!

Nimai: This place where I sit is impure? Even if it is impure, wherever I sit

becomes pure. All the Holy Places and the Ganges River reside wherever I am.

Saci: Why are You speaking like this? Please get down.

1st Neighbor: What is happening? Nimai, what is the matter?

Nimai: My Mother and Father will not allow me to study, therefore I am sitting here and I will not get down.

2nd Neighbor: Why do you forbid Nimai to go to school.

Saci: It is the will of His father.

2nd Neighbor: You cannot allow Nimai to grow up a fool. Come Child, get down and we shall speak to Your father. **(Nimai climbs down, all exit, music)**

SCENE SEVEN At Jagannath Misra's Ashram

2nd Neighbor: Dear friend, please don't forbid Nimai to study. Whatever Lord Krishna desires will come true. We cannot control destiny with our meager plans. Discard your fears, and do what is right.

1st Neighbor: You are very fortunate that your son desires to learn. Choose an auspicious day and have Nimai initiated with the sacred thread. Let the Boy again study.

Jagannath Misra: You are my dearest friends and my elders. If all of you insist, I will agree.

3rd Neighbor: Your child is not an ordinary boy. Keep Him close to your heart with great care.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, I will. Thank you for coming. Hare Krsna!

Narrator: Thus Nimai, the Supreme Lord of Vaikuntha, enjoyed His own transcendental pastimes and, with His father's permission, He joyfully returned to His studies. Soon He was known as Nimai Pandit, a teacher of grammar who used the scriptures brilliantly in His lessons.

Nimai and the Puppy #1

by Phani Bhusana dasa

Now, a story about Lord Caitanya. When He was a small boy, everybody used to call Him Nimai. One day, Nimai was playing with His friends. Nimai pointed at a dog, "He is going to be my pet. Boys, I'm tired and hungry; I'm going home for dinner."

Nimai continued to play with the puppy. Later, He found a piece of twine to tie around the neck of His pet, so he could lead him, and Nimai tied the puppy up in the front of His house. Sachi was on her way out, "I'm glad you came home Nimai. I'm going to the Ganges to take a bath. I'll be back soon."

Nimai untied the puppy. He was running and jumping with the dog like a whirlwind. They were having so much fun. Suddenly, Mother Sachi returned home. Sachi said,"A dirty dog! What is he doing here?! You are a brahmin boy and you are not supposed to play with dogs!"

"He is my new pet, what is wrong with that?" asked Nimai.

"Dogs are unclean. They eat all kinds of things that we would not even touch. Get rid of him immediately!" ordered Mother Sachi.

"He doesn't want to go away. He wants to stay with Me." Nimai begged His mother, "Let Me keep the little puppy."

"We'll let him stay outside the house," said Mother Sachi. Nimai took the dog and tied him at the bottom of the steps. Nimai's friends came by and invited Him to join them.

"Mother, I'm going to the river to take a bath!"

"That's a good idea." Nimai lovingly embraced His mother and ran down by the Ganges. Mother Sachi was thinking of ways to get rid of the dog. She untied Nimai's pet and set him free. One boy saw what had happened and ran to tell Nimai. "Nimai! Nimai! Mother Sachi has just let your pet loose!"

"What?!" Nimai jumped up and ran home, as fast as possible. Nimai looked and looked but the puppy was nowhere to be found. "Boohoohoo!! Somebody has stolen my puppy! Boohoo!!"

Mother Sachi tried to comfort Him saying, "Don't cry, my little Nimai. Please don't cry. You don't have any reason to be unhappy."

"Somebody took my puppy! He's gone!!" sobbed Nimai.

"That's why you are crying? Everything is going to be alright."

Sachi took Him on her lap. "We will try to find him tomorrow, so please don't cry anymore. With your eyes full of tears, You don't have Your usual moonlike face." Mother Sachi spoke to Nimai in her gentle voice. She gave Him some tasty prasadam and He was soon very happy again.

The puppy reached the other end of town. Nimai had touched the dog, so he was now ecstatic. "Radha-Krsna! Guaranga! Guaranga! Radha-Krsna Radha-Krsna!" People looked at each other with amazement when they saw how the puppy was dancing. "What has happened to this dog? It's dancing and singing and rolling on the ground!"

"Hare Krsna, Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare!" This went on for a few days. The puppy continued to sing and dance in

ecstasy. "Guaranga, Guaranga, Guaranga, Gua...!" when all of a sudden the puppy is dead on the ground.
"What is that?" A whizzing sound and the pounding of drums, "Tom, tom, tom!" A dazzling light illuminated the entire sky. The light was so intense that we had to step back. A brilliant light came out of the body of the dog, an effulgent personality, dressed in divine clothes.

All glories, all glories to Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Nimai and the Puppy #2

by Phani Bhusana dasa

Narrator:Now, a story about Lord Caitanya. When He was a small boy, everybody used to call Him Nimai. One day, Nimai was playing with His friends. Nimai pointed at a dog:

Nimai: He is going to be my pet. Boys, I'm tired and hungry; I'm going home for dinner.

Narrator: Nimai continued to play with the puppy. Later, He found a piece of twine to tie around the neck of His pet, so he could lead him, and Nimai tied the puppy up in the front of His house. Sachi was on her way out:

Sachi: I'm glad you came home, Nimai. I'm going to the Ganges to take a bath. I'll be back soon.

Narrator: Nimai untied the puppy. He was running and jumping with the dog like a whirlwind. They were having so much fun. Suddenly, Mother Sachi returned home.

Sachi: A dirty dog! What is he doing here?! You are a brahmin boy and you are not supposed to play with dogs!

Nimai: He is my new pet, what is wrong with that?

Sachi: Dogs are unclean. They eat all kinds of things that we would not even touch. Get rid of him immediately!

Nimai: He doesn't want to go away. He wants to stay with Me. Let Me keep the little puppy.

Sachi: We'll let him stay outside the house.

Narrator: Nimai took the dog and tied him at the bottom of the steps. Nimai's friends came by and invited Him to join them.

Nimai: Mother, I'm going to the river to take a bath!

Sachi: That's a good idea.

Narrator: Nimai lovingly embraced His mother and ran down by the Ganges. Mother Sachi was thinking of ways to get rid of the dog. She untied Nimai's pet and set him free. One boy saw what had happened and ran to tell Nimai:

Boy: Nimai! Nimai! Mother Sachi has just let your pet loose!

Nimai: What?!

Narrator: Nimai jumped up and ran home, as fast as possible. Nimai looked and looked but the puppy was nowhere to be found.

Nimai: Boohoohoo!! Somebody has stolen my puppy! Boohoo!!

Sachi: Don't cry, my little Nimai. Please don't cry. You don't have any reason to be unhappy.

Nimai: Somebody took my puppy! He's gone!!

Sachi: That's why you are crying? Everything is going to be alright. We will try to find him tomorrow, so please don't cry anymore. With your eyes full of tears, You don't have Your usual moonlike face.

Narrator: Mother Sachi spoke to Nimai in her gentle voice. She gave Him some tasty prasadam and He was soon very happy again.

The puppy reached the other end of town. Nimai had touched the dog, so he was now ecstatic. "Radha-Krsna! Guaranga! Guaranga! Radha-Krsna Radha-Krsna!" People looked at each other with amazement when they saw how the puppy was dancing.

Villager: What has happened to this dog? It's dancing and singing and rolling on the ground!

Puppy: Hare Krsna, Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare!

Narrator: This went on for a few days. The puppy continued to sing and dance in ecstasy.

Puppy: Guaranga, Guaranga, Guaranga, Gua...!"

Villager: What? All of a sudden the puppy is dead on the ground!!

2nd Villager: What is that? Did you hear that whizzing sound and the pounding of drums, "Tom, tom, tom!"

Villager: A dazzling light illuminated the entire sky. The light was so intense that we had to step back. A brilliant light came out of the body of the dog. An effulgent personality, dressed in divine clothes ascended to the Spiritual Sky!!

Narrator: All glories, all glories to Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu! He saves those who do not have any hope of becoming liberated, simply by touching them. In the same way, we can hope that Lord Caitanya will touch us with His mercy!

In the same way, we can hope that Lord Caitanya will touch us with His mercy!

NIMAI PUPPET SHOW

adapted for puppet theater by Mrgaksi dasi and Akhilananda dasa
from *Sri Chaitanya-Bhagavata, Adi-lila*
lyrics by Yamini dasi

CAST: Narrator, Advaita Acharya, Mother Saci, Jagannath Mishra, Nimai, Astrologer, 2 Ladies, snake, 2 Thieves, Brahmana and many animals.

SCENE ONE: Advaita Acharya's Concern

Narrator: In the Age of Kali, intelligent persons perform congregational chanting to worship the incarnation of Godhead who constantly sings the Names of Krishna. Although His complexion is not blackish, He is Krishna Himself. He is accompanied by His associates, servants, weapons and confidential companions. In the Upa-puranas we hear Sri Krsna showing His mercy to Vyasadeva by speaking to him as follows: "O learned Brahmana, sometimes I accept the renounced order of life to induce the fallen people of the Age of Kali to accept devotional service to the Lord. Srimad Bhagavatam, Mahabharata, the Puranas and other Vedic literatures all give evidence to prove that Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is the incarnation of Krsna. Adwaita Acarya Goswami is an incarnation of the Lord as a devotee. His loud calling was the cause for Lord Krishna's appearance as Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Advaita Acharya, having appeared, found the world devoid of devotional service to Sri Krishna because people were engrossed in material affairs.

Advaita: Everyone is engaged in material enjoyment, whether good or bad. No one is interested in the transcendental service of the Lord, which can give relief from birth and death. How can I act for the people's benefit? If Sri Krishna was to appear as an incarnation, He Himself could preach devotion by His personal example. In this age of Kali, chanting of the Holy Name is the only religion; but how, in this age, will the Lord appear as an incarnation? I know, I shall worship Krishna in a purified state of mind and constantly petition Him in humbleness.

Narrator: Thinking in this way, Advaita Acharya began worshiping the Lord. Always remembering the lotus feet of Sri Krishna, He constantly offered Tulasi buds and water from the Ganges. He appealed to Sri Krishna with loud calls, and thus made it possible for Lord Krishna to appear.

Adwaita Acharya: O my Lord, you always dwell in the vision of your pure devotees. You live in their lotus-like hearts which are purified by devotional service. O my Lord, Who is glorified by exalted prayers, You show special favor to Your devotees by manifesting Yourself in the eternal Forms in which they welcome You!

Narrator: On the full moon eve of the month of Phalguna, during a lunar eclipse, the Lord appeared. Because of the eclipse, everyone was chanting *"Hari Hari!"* in great jubilation. Therefore, Lord Chaitanya appeared after first causing the appearance of the Holy Name. **(*Kirtan* party enters and chants *"Haribol!"* Mother Saci carries out baby Nimai. Jagannath Mishra is also there.)**

Song: "When Lord Chaitanya was a Boy."

When Lord Caitanya was a boy
His mother called Him Nimai;
Lying on His bed He turned upside-down.
In His Lotus Foot Prints a thunderbolt and disc
Conchshell, club and fish could be found.
Mother Saci saw them on the ground.

Then, Jagannatha Misra called the astrologer
Who said,"on the body of this Child
Are the marks of a great personality
Five parts are large and five are fine
Seven red and six raised, and three are very small
Three are broad and three are very grave.
These thirty-two signs on the palms and soles
Are the symptoms of Lord Narayana!
Your boy will protect and maintain the world
So, He will be called Visvambara,
He will be called Visvambara."

SCENE TWO Baby Nimai Cries

Saci: O Jagannath Misra Prabhu, come see the marks on the floor! Have you ever seen anything like it?

Jagannath: Saci, these footprints! The marks of Lord Vishnu are here - the flag, thunderbolt, conchshell, disk and fish!

Saci: How is these marks possible in our home?

Jagannath: Certainly, Child Krsna is within the Shaligram Sila. Taking his childhood form He is playing within the room.

Saci: How can this be? Oh, there is Nimai, waking up for nap. It's alright, Nimai, here sit with me.

Jagannath: I can't believe that child Krsna has blessed our home! What have we done to get such mercy?

Saci: Jagannath Misra Prabhu, come quickly and see!

Jagannath: What?!? Look at Nimai's feet! Here are the marks we saw on the floor. How is this possible? Wait - I will call the astrologer, Nilambhara Cakravarti. He is an expert astrologer and can tell us what this means.

(He exits and returns with Nilambhara Cakravarti.)

Nilambara: Let me see now ... (ahem). Yes, formerly I ascertained all this by astrological calculations and noted it in writing. There

re 32 marks that symptomize a great personality and I see all those marks on the body of this child. This baby has all the symptoms of Lord Narayana on His palms and soles. He will be able to deliver all the three worlds. I propose that we should hold a festival and invite the Brahmanas because today is very auspicious. In the future, this child will protect and maintain all the world. For this reason, He is to be called Visvambara!

SONG:
He shall be called Visvambara!

Narrator: After some days, the Lord began to crawl on his hands and knees, and He caused various wonderful things to be seen. **(The snake crawls in parents look worried and yell Garuda! they pray to Ananta and the snake slips away.**)

Song: A Snake Crawled into the Courtyard.

A snake crawled into the courtyard
Nimai lay on His back
His parents called, "Garuda,
Save us from this attack!"
But when they called, "Ananta, Save Our Boy Today!"
Only then did the snake
Slowly slip away.

(Jagannath Mishra exits. Nimai is center stage, some ladies enter and surround Nimai, doing various activities. Nimai begins crying)

Saci: Oh no, don't cry, little one!

1st Lady: It's alright, little Nimai. **(Nimai cries louder. Mother Saci begins singing *Hare Krishna,* He stops)**

2nd Lady: Oh look, He stopped crying!

1st Lady: Yes, when you chant, He stops.

2nd Lady: Oh, but look, He's starting to cry again! **(Nimai cries)**

1st Lady: Quickly, let's chant again! **(they chant, Nimai gradually stops crying)**

2nd Lady: Oh good, He stopped again.

1st Lady: I think Nimai is playing a game with us. **(Nimai begins crying again)**

2nd Lady: You're right! Now we must always chant the *maha-mantra!* **(they all chant and Nimai smiles)** Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare

Narrator: In this way the Lord was showing that His life's purpose was to spread this Samkirtana movement.

SCENE THREE Nimai Eats Dirt

Narrator: One day, when the Lord was enjoying playful sports with the other children, Mother Saci brought a dish filled with fused rice and sweetmeats, and asked Nimai to sit down and eat them.

Song:
Saci Mata gave Nimai some sweets
And told Him to sit and eat
But when she left Him and then returned
She found He was eating dirt.

Saci: What is this, what is this?
Why are you eating dirt?

Nimai: Mother, don't be angry
I do not see my fault.
This is dirt, that is dirt
Dirt or sweets are the same.
You gave me simply dirt to eat
So I am not to blame.

Saci: Eating dirt that forms to grain
Will make our bodies strong.
But eating dirt will cause disease
Before too very long.

If I have dirt shaped like a pot
I can carry water easily,
But pouring it on a lump of clay
Then I will have labored uselessly.

Nimai: Thank you Mother Saci,
Now I understand.
I will drink your breastmilk
And never eat dirt again.

SCENE FOUR Nimai Eats the Brahmana's Offering

Narrator: On another occasion, the Lord ate the foodstuffs of a Brahmana guest three times, and later, in confidence, the Lord delivered that Brahmana from material engagement. **(knock at door)**

Jagannath: Sacidevi! Someone is at the door. Please go see who it is. **(Mother Saci opens the door.)**

Saci: Oh, just a moment, I'll go get my husband.

Jagannath: Hello, oh my dear Brahmana. Please come in. You must be tired from travelling from one place of pilgrimage to another. Please sit down. Sacidevi, please go get this Brahmana something cool to drink. You must have travelled very far and be very tired. Please rest yourself in my home.

Brahmana: I have been touring all over the country, travelling from one place of pilgrimage to the next and now I have reached Navadvip. You are so kind to have taken me in.

Jagannath: Certainly, a devotee of Lord Vishnu is welcome in my house anytime. Is there anything else I can get for you?

Brahmana: Oh, no. I am fine, thank you, but would it be possible to have some ingredients to prepare an offering for my Gopal Deity.

Jagannath: Yes, yes. Sacidevi, please go get our guest some milk, rice and sugar so that he can prepare sweet-rice for his Gopal Deity. Here, sir,you may have this room for your worship. **(they exit)**

Brahmana: Thank you. Hmmm, let's see ... I will make an altar over here.now. Now, I will prepare some sweet-rice. **(he mixes, etc., and sings *"Govinda Jaya Jaya, Gopala Jaya Jaya, Radha Ramana Hari, Govinda Jaya Jaya."*)** Now, it is ready to offer. **(he bows down and begins to offer *"Namo brahmanya devaya..."* when Nimai approaches and eats the *bhoga.* Brahmana looks up)** What? Why did you do that? You have spoiled my offering! Where is your father?Jagannath Mishra! Jagannath Mishra!

Jagannath: What is it? What is wrong?

Brahmana: Your son has spoiled my offering! He has taken it before I was through!

Jagannath: Oh, I am very sorry! Nimai! You shouldn't have done a thing like that. Come with me and play in the other room. Leave the Brahmana alone, to worship his Deity.

Brahmana: Thank you. Oh well, children are innocent.I'll do it again. **(the Brahmana prepares again as before. When he begins to offer, Nimai again eats the *bhoga.* The Brahmana looks up)** What? Not again! You naughty boy! You've spoiled my offering again! Innocent or not you cannot eat the offering before it is offered.Jagannath Mishra! Your son has done it again. He has spoiled my offering again!

Jagannath: I can't understand it, Nimai never acts this way. This time, I will put Nimai to bed! It is late so I am sure He will not bother you anymore.

Brahmana: Alright, I'll try again. Let me make the sweet rice again. Again it is ready to offer.**(he repeats the same procedure. Nimai comes in and eats the *bhoga*)** No, no! Not again! What has been done? What has been done? I guess Lord Vishnu does not want me to eat today!

Narrator: Seeing the Brahmana in such an agitated state the Lord revealed His form as Krsna and spoke to the Brahmana as follows:

Nimai: My dear Brahmana, formerly I was the son of Mother Yasoda. At that time, you were a guest in the house of Nanda Maharaja and I disturbed you in the same way. I am very much pleased with your devotion, therefore I am eating the foodstuff that you have prepared.

Brahmana: O my Lord, You have favored me! I am so fortunate!

Nimai: Do not disclose this incident to anyone. Go on in your worship of Me in the form of Gopal.

Brahmana: Oh, Thank you, Lord! Thank you! **(they exit)**

SCENE FIVE Nimai Kidnapped by Two Thieves

Narrator: One day, Nimai was sitting outside His home while His mother was engaged in household activities when along came two thieves, looking to steal others' property.

Thief 1: Hey, look there, in that courtyard!

Thief 2: What? I don't see anything but a little boy.

Thief 1: No, look at that child, He's covered with jewels!

Thief 2: You're right! Let's take those jewels, boy and all!

Thief 1: Here, Boy, we have a gift for You!

Nimai: What is it?

Thief 2: Why, it's some sweetmeats! All children love sweets.

Nimai: Yes, yes, give them to me!

Thief 1: First, climb on my back, then You can have the sweet.
(they walk away with Nimai. After a circle or two:)

Thief 2: As soon as we get far enough away, we'll kill Him and take His jewels!

Thief 1: Yeah, we're getting pretty deep in the woods, nobody will find us here! Let's stop and get those jewels!

Thief 2: No, wait! I think I hear some voices! Let's get closer and hear what they are saying!

(They hear Saci calling.)

Saci: Nimai! Nimai! Where are you? Nimai! Nimai!

Thief 2: Oh no! We're right back where we started from! How did that happen? Quick, put him down! Let's run!

Saci: Oh, Nimai, there You are I've been looking all over for You! It's time for your dinner, now. Jagannath Misra is waiting for you!

Nimai: I'm sorry to be gone so long, Mother; I just went for a walk in the woods.

Narrator: In this way Lord Chaitanya exhibited His childhood pastimes, showing His opulence as much as possible and then once again hiding Himself.

Song: Spelling Song

Mother Saci had a boy, and His name was Nimai,
N-I-M-A-I, N-I-M-A-I, N-I-M-A-I,
And Nimai was His name!

(Kirtan: Gour Nityananda Bol, etc., Jai Sri Krsna Chaitanya, Prabhu Nityananda,Jai Advaita Gadadhar Srivadi Gaura Bhakta Vrnda. Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare)

SCENE SIX - Jarakhanda Forest.

Narrator: One time, Lord Chaitanya went to visit Jagannath Puri for a few days, then he secretly left for Vrindavana at night. When Lord Chaitanya left for Vrindavana only Balabhadra Battacharya was with Him. Thus he travelled on the path through Jarakhana Forest. This forest was full of wild animals and Balabhadra Battacharya was afraid to go there. He did not want Lord Chaitanya to be hurt. But, Lord Chaitanya is in every living entity's heart as Paramatma and has the power to give perfect knowledge even an animal. So, seeing a sleeping tiger, He grabbed it by the tail and ordered it to chant Hare Krsna. Then He went on causing all the animals of the forest to rise up on their hind legs and chant the Holy Names.

(Lord Chaitanya dances with many animals.)

ANIMAL SONG

We are the monkeys we play in the trees
When the lion comes we hide in the leaves
(Repeat) (monkey sounds)
We are the deer full of fear; the lion may be coming near
(Repeat)
We are snakes; full of hate
(Repeat)(hissing sound)
We are the lions, we like to prowl
Everyone runs when they hear us growl
(Repeat) (roaring sound)
Chant you animals the Holy Name, give up all your fear
This chanting of the Holy Name will fill your heart with tears

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare

NIMAI'S CHILDHOOD PASTIMES

from *Sri Chaitanya-Bhagavata, Adi-lila*

* * * * *

CAST: Narrator, Advaita Acharya, Mother Shachi, Nimai, 2 Ladies, 2 Thieves, Jagannath Mishra, Brahmana.

SCENE ONE

Advaita Acharya's Concern

Narrator: In the Age of Kali, intelligent persons perform congregational chanting of the Holy Names of God to worship the incarnation of Godhead who constantly sings the names of Krishna. Although His complexion is not blackish, He is Krishna Himself. He is accompanied by His associates. Advaita Acharya is an incarnation of the Lord as a devotee. His loud calling was the cause for Lord Krishna's appearance as Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Advaita Acharya found the world devoid of devotional service to Sri Krishna because people were engrossed in material affairs.

Advaita: Everyone is engaged in material enjoyment. No one is interested in the transcendental service of the Lord, which can give relief from the cycle of birth and death. How can I act for the people's benefit? If Sri Krishna was to appear as an incarnation, He Himself could preach devotion by His personal example. In this age of Kali, chanting of the Holy Name is the only religion; but, how will the Lord appear? I know, I shall worship Lord Krishna in a purified state of mind and constantly petition Him in humbleness.

Narrator: Thinking in this way, Advaita Acharya began worshiping the Lord. Always remembering the lotus feet of Sri Krishna, He constantly offered Tulasi buds and water from the Ganges. He appealed to Sri Krishna with loud calls, and thus made it possible for Lord Krishna to appear.

On the full moon eve of the month of Phalguna, during a lunar eclipse, the Lord appeared. Because of the eclipse, everyone was chanting *"Hari Hari!"* in great jubilation. **(*Kirtan* party enters and chants *"Haribol!"* Mother Shachi carries out baby Nimai. Jagannath Mishra is also there. *Kirtan* party then sings "When Lord Chaitanya was a Boy.")**

SCENE TWO

Baby Nimai Cries

Narrator: After some days, the Lord began to crawl on his hands and knees, and He caused various wonders to be seen. **(Nimai is sitting while singers sing "A Snake Crawled into the Courtyard." The snake crawls in " parents look worried and yell "Garuda!" " they pray to Ananta and**

the snake slips away. Jagannath Mishra exits. Nimai is center stage, some ladies enter and surround Nimai, doing various activities. Nimai begins crying)

Shachi: Oh no, don't cry, little one!

1st Lady: It's alright, little Nimai. **(Nimai cries louder. Mother Shachi begins singing *Hare Krishna,* He stops)**

2nd Lady: Oh look, He stopped crying!

1st Lady: Yes, when you chant, He stops.

2nd Lady: Oh, but look, He's starting to cry again! **(Nimai cries)**

1st Lady: Quickly, let's chant again! **(they chant, Nimai gradually stops crying)**

2nd Lady: Oh good, He stopped again.

1st Lady: I think Nimai is playing a game with us. **(Nimai begins crying again)**

2nd Lady: Now we must always chant the *maha-mantra!* **(they all chant and Nimai smiles)**

SCENE THREE

Nimai Kidnapped by Two Thieves

Narrator: In this way, the Lord was showing that His life's purpose was to spread this *sankirtan* movement. In His childhood, the Lord was once taken away by two thieves, outside His own house...

Thief 1: Hey, look over there!

Thief 2: What? I don't see anything but a little boy.

Thief 1: No, look at all those jewels on Him!

Thief 2: Let's take Him away, kill Him and rob Him of all His jewels!

Thief 1: Good idea! Let's go.

Thief 2: Hi there, little boy! Want to come with us?

Thief 1: We have a surprise for you!

Nimai: What is it?

Thief 2: Sweets! All children love sweets.

Nimai: Oh good, let's go!

Thief 1: First, You have to come with us. **(they walk away with Nimai. After a circle or two)**

Thief 2: Let's go deeper into the woods so we can kill Him and rob Him of all His jewels!

Thief 1: Yeah! This is a good place! **(they hear Shachi calling)**

Shachi: Nimai! Nimai! Where are you?

Thief 2: What was that?

Thief 1: It sounded like a voice!

Thief 2: Hey! We're right back where we started from!

Thief 1: Let's get out of here!

Shachi: Nimai, there You are I've been looking all over for You! It's time for your dinner. Your father is waiting for you!

Nimai: I'm sorry to be gone so long, Mother; I just went for a walk in the woods.

SCENE FOUR

Nimai Eats the Brahmana's Offering

Narrator: On another occasion, the Lord ate the foodstuffs of a Brahmana guest three times, and later, in confidence, the Lord delivered that Brahmana from material engagement. **(knock at door)**

Jagannath: Shachidevi! Someone is at the door. Please go see who it is. **(Mother Shachi opens the door)**

Shachi: Oh, just a moment, I'll go get my husband.

Jagannath: Come in, my dear Brahmana. Please come in. You must be tired from travelling from one place of pilgrimage to another. Please sit down. Shachidevi, please go get this Brahmana something cool to drink. A Brahmana is welcome in my house anytime. Is there anything else I can get for you?

Brahmana: Oh, no, thank you. I am fine, but I would like some ingredients to

prepare an offering for my Gopal Deity.

Jagannath: Yes, yes. Shachidevi, please go get our guest some milk, rice and sugar so that he can prepare sweet-rice for his Gopal Deity. You may have this room for your worship. **(they exit)**

Brahmana: Thank you. Hmmm, let's see... I will make an altar over here. Then, I will prepare some sweet-rice. **(he mixes, etc., and sings *"Govinda Jaya Jaya, Gopala Jaya Jaya, Radha Ramana Hari, Govinda Jaya Jaya."*)** Now, it is ready to offer. **(he bows down and begins to offer *"Namo brahmanya devaya..."* when Nimai approaches and eats the *bhoga.* Brahmana looks up)** What are you doing? You are spoiling my offering! Jagannath Mishra! Jagannath Mishra!

Jagannath: Nimai! You shouldn't have done that. Come on, let's go.

Brahmana: Oh well, children are innocent. **(the Brahmana prepares again as before. When he begins to offer, Nimai again eats the *bhoga.* The Brahmana looks up)** What are you doing? You've spoiled my offering again! Jagannath Mishra! Your son has spoiled my offering again!

Jagannath: Nimai, You naughty boy! This time I will put You to bed!

Brahmana: I'll prepare it again. **(he repeats the same procedure. Nimai comes in and eats the *bhoga*)** What has been done? What has been done? I guess Lord Vishnu does want to eat!

Nimai: My dear Brahmana, formerly I was the son of Mother Yashoda. At that time, you were a guest in the house of Nanda Maharaja and I disturbed you in the same way. I am very much pleased with your devotion.

Brahmana: Thank you, Lord. You are very kind.

Nimai: Do not disclose this incident to anyone. Go on in your worship of Me in the form of Gopal.

Brahmana: Thank you, Lord. **(they exit)**

SCENE FIVE

Nimai Eats Dirt

Narrator: One day, when the Lord was enjoying playful sports with the other children, Mother Shachi brought a dish filled with fused rice and sweetmeats, and asked Nimai to sit down and eat them.

Shachi: It's time for You to eat; I must go and do my household chores now, but I will be back soon. **(she leaves. Nimai rejects the food, picks up dirt and**

eats it instead. Then she returns) Nimai! What is this? What is this? Why have you been eating dirt?

Nimai: Why are you so angry, Mother? You have already given me dirt to eat. This is dirt, and the sweetmeats are just a transformation of dirt. This is dirt. That is dirt. So, what is the difference, Mother?

Shachi: Who has taught you this philosophical nonsense that justifies eating dirt? If we eat dirt transformed into grains, our bodies become nourished and strong. But if we eat this plain dirt off the ground, our bodies become diseased and will be destroyed!

Nimai: Why didn't you teach Me this before, Mother? From now on, when I'm hungry, I will not eat dirt.

Shachi: *Jai!*

(kirtan)

The End

Young Nimai's Pastimes

Narrator: All Glories, All Glories to Lord Gaurachandra, Who is the Supreme Lord of Lords and All Glories to His Devotees! This play depicts the childhood pastimes of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He was known as Nimai in Navadvip Dham and He was very mischievous. Although His parents tried and tried, they could not correct Him.

SCENE ONE Stealing Sweets

Nimai: Come on, this looks like a good place. I can smell some delicious sweets already.

1st Boy: Oh boy! I can hardly wait!

2nd Boy: I'm starved!
(Nimai finds a pot and exclaims:)

Nimai: I found some! I found some!

1st Boy: What kind? Let's see!

Nimai: All kinds! She must be preparing for a party!
(Nimai eats sweets by the handful as quickly as He can.)

2nd Boy: C'mon, give us some, too!

1st Boy:b Yes, we share everything, remember?

Nimai: My dear friends, I found it first so this one and only sweet belongs to me! **(He gobbles it down.)**

Boys!: Hey! That's not fair! **(They wrestle for several minutes but Nimai breaks away and runs about laughing.)**

1st Boy: That rascal! Let's go tell Mother Saci.

2nd Boy: Yeah, I hear her calling. She's looking for You, Nimai! We'll tell her that we were trying to stop You but You wouldn't listen to us! C'mon.

Boys: (calling) Mother Saci! Mother Saci! Here is Nimai! Come at once! **(Saci runs in)**

Saci: (gasps) Nimai! Get home immediately! Why do You steal other's things? Why do You beat the other children? Look at them! Their clothes are ruined! What are their mothers going to say? **(Boys smirk at Nimai.)** Why do You go inside other's houses? What do You not have in Your own home? **(They all exit. Music)**

SCENE TWO At Home
(Nimai enters and breaks a clay pot. Saci runs in.)
Saci: Nimai, what are you doing? You've knocked over my pot! All the milk is wasted!

Nimai: Watch Me knock over another one!

Saci: Stop! This is terrible! Oh, where is Your father?

Nimai: My father is old and can do nothing to stop me.

Saci: (calls) Jagannath Misra! Would you come here, please?
(Jagannath Misra enters)

Jagannath Misra: What is the difficulty now? I'm trying to study the scriptures! Can't a man study at home anymore?

Saci: Look what Nimai has done!

Jagannath Misra: Nimai!

Nimai: My dear father, I hope that you will not chastise Me, for if you do I shall break more pots.

Jagannath Misra: Oh dear! What can be done? Whenever we correct You, You become twice as naughty!

Nimai: I am not afraid of chastisement so no one can teach Me anything. No one can correct Me.
(Visvarupa, the elder brother of Nimai enters.)

Visvarupa: Nimai, did You do this? My dear brother, You have made such a mess. Clean it up, immediately.

Nimai: Yes, Sri Visvarupa, I will clean it up. Is there anything else You'd like Me to do?
(all exit as Nimai begins to clean up. music)

Narrator: As Nimai is none other than Sri Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Nimai's elder brother, Visvarupa, is Lord Balarama. From His birth, Visvarupa was completely renounced nd exhibited all saintly qualities. Nimai, although listening to neither His mother nor His father, would become meek and humble in the presence of His elder brother. **(Music)**

SCENE THREE At Advaita Acarya's Ashram

Advaita Acarya: Ah, Visvarupa, please come inside. We are discussing the path of Bhakti Yoga!

Visvarupa: Bhakti is the essence of all Shastra, but people neither teach Bhakti nor practice it.

Advaita Acarya: True, materialistic men find no pleasure in service to Krishna. They are too selfish.

Devotee: And too foolish! The local men in Nadia even laugh at a man just for

being a Vaisnava! One foolish fellow said to me, "If even renounced sannyasis and great yogis performing austerities have to die, then what is the use of your efforts. It is better to collect money and ride on a palanquin with twenty servants running behind. Then at least your name will live on in the history of your community."

Advaita Acharya: They are mad after mundane achievements such as wealth, education and good family. They never chant Lord Hari's Names.

Visvarupa: Their ignorance fills Me with sadness!
(Nimai enters quickly)

Narrator: When Nimai entered the house of Advaita Acharya, all the devotees became stunned. He was bare chested and covered with dirt from playing. Nimai smiled and glanced all around at the devotees.

Nimai: Brother, come home and eat. Mother has sent Me to bring You home. She's waiting for You.

Devotee: Nimai! His beautiful form has charmed my heart!

Advaita Acarya: I cannot understand Who this Child is! His beauty is beyond compare!

Devotee: His smiling face and darting eyes have captured me. Now I can no longer concentrate on my studies.
(Nimai catches hold of Visvarupa's dhoti and both exit. The devotees follow Them, in a stunned condition, to the door.)

Devotee: Perhaps Nimai is a demigod Who has been sent to bewilder us with His beautiful features.

Advaita Acarya: I cannot say, but I know that He is not an ordinary child! **(music, then Visvarupa enter again)** Visvarupa, You have returned so quickly! Jai! We shall now go to the house of Srinivas Acarya for kirtana.
Visvarupa: Yes, I told my parents that I was fasting and would chant the Holy Names all through the night. **(all exit)**

SCENE FOUR The Ashram of Jagannath Misra

Saci: Visvarupa spends all His time with the Vaisnavas. Even while at home, He takes no part in family affairs. Rather, he will study the scriptures and worship Salagram Sila.

Jagannath Misra: Sacidevi, I think it is time to find Visvarupa a wife.
Saci: Well, there are many nice Brahmana families in Navadvip. I have seen girls of marriageable age by the river.

Jagannath Misra: I will begin inquiring. A wife for Visvarupa will have to be very religious and gentle.
(They exit. Visvarupa enters, disturbed at what He has overheard.)

Visvarupa: My parents are going to plan my marriage?! This is terrible news! I have no desire to be entangled in material affairs! I'd rather take sannyasa and live in the forest, meditating always on Lord Krsna. I will leave tonight.
(music)

SCENE FIVE The Next Day

Jagannath Misra: Oh, Visvarupa! I feel as though my life has ended! Visvarupa! Where have you gone!?

Saci: Visvarupa! Visvarupa! I cannot go on living without my son!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa! Why have you left us?!
(Devotee neighbors cone running in)

1st Devotee: What's happened? What calamity has befallen you? I've never seen you so upset!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa has left us. He's run away. We were planning His marriage ... now ... I fear he will take sannyasa, the renounced order of life! I will never see Him again!

2nd Devotee: Oh no! Visvarupa! What shall we do! He has always been such a joy to my life! **(He puts his hand on Jagannath Misra's shoulder)** My dear friend, I also feel great pain. I also love Him as a son ... but how will losing ourselves in lamentation help?

Jagannath Misra: (sigh) But ...

1st Devotee: Try thinking about it this way - what Visvarupa has done is glorious. Everyone always knew that someday he would take sannyasa and set out to preach near and far. Just think about how His taking sannyasa has delivered your entire family ...

Jagannath Misra: All I know is the pain of my heart, throbbing in separation. Oh, Visvarupa!

1st Devotee: Calm yourself. Calm yourself. Having one son like Nimai is better than having millions of sons. He has strong faith in Krsna, but He is not the renunciate type. Nimai will always stay with His friends and relatives in the village!

2nd Devotee: Yes, think about Nimai! He will remove all Your suffering! His mere glance is as cooling as the rays of the full moon!

Jagannath Misra: Visvarupa!

2nd Devotee: We never knew how long He would stay with us.

1st Devotee: Lord Krsna gave us Visvarupa and now the Lord Himself has taken Him back. What can be done! Whatever Lord Krsnacandra desires must certainly

occur!
(music. all exit)

SCENE SIX

Jagannath Misra: Nimai, come here and help Your Mother.

Nimai: Yes, Father.

Saci: Carry these pots, please.

Nimai: Yes, Mother. May I do anything else to help you?

Jagannath Misra: Since Your brother left, You've become so gentle and well-behaved! **(Jagannath Misra embraces Nimai.)**

Nimai: Father, may I have your permission to go and study?

Jagannath Misra: Yes, certainly, Nimai. **(Nimai leaves)**

Saci: Nimai has changed so much! Now we have nothing but praise for Him. Our neighbors say that no one can match His scholarship or defeat His arguments. He is so serious about His studies, as well.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, and that seriousness is just what frightens me.

Saci: Why? What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: It was Visvarupa's serious study of the scriptures that led Him to take sannyasa. By studying Bhagavad Gita, He learned that not a shred of value exists in material life. If Nimai continues to study, I fear He will follow His brother and take sannyasa.

Saci: (gasp) Nimai is all we have!

Jagannath Misra: If He leaves us, I will die! I must stop His studies! It is better that He remains illiterate!

Saci: But, if He is illiterate, how will He maintain Himself? And who will allow their daughter to marry Him?

Jagannath Misra: Don't worry, Krsna provides for everyone, whether the person is educated or not. And anyway, education doesn't insure wealth.

Saci: What do you mean?

Jagannath Misra: Take me for example: We are sufficiently learned, but we don't even have an excess of food in our house. But there are some persons who, without even knowing the Sanskrit alphabet, are able to live in luxury. Everything depends on Krsna.

Saci: But if Nimai doesn't study, what will He do with His time?

Jagannath Misra: Anything He likes ... anything but study the scriptures! **(they exit)**

Narrator: That evening, when Nimai returned from school, He was told that His studies were terminated. Being obedient to His Father's wishes, He remained at home. Nimai didn't complain, but He again resumed His naughty, restless behavior.

SCENE SEVEN In the Courtyard

Nimai: Boys, boys! Come quickly! I have a plan!

1st Boy: Yes, yes. What is it?

2nd Boy: We're ready!

Nimai: Look at those banana trees, they are full of bananas! Let's steal them!

1st Boy: Yeah!

2nd Boy: Alright, that will be easy!

Nimai: And tonight, when it is dark we can tie the doors of our neighbors on all side with rope and in the morning, when they awaken, they will be locked inside!

1st Boy: Let's go fight with the boys in town!

Nimai: No, I know an old lady who lives near here, let's go and smash all her clay pots!

2nd Boy: Very good! Very good!

Nimai: Then we can splash old men at the Ganges River!
(they exit. music)

SCENE EIGHT At the River Bank

1st Brahmana: OOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOMMMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

1st Brahmana: What was that? Hmmmm! OOOOOOOOOMMMMMMM! OOOOOOMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

1st Brahmana: There it is again! Hmmmm! OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMM!

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMM!

Nimai: (splashes Brahmana and laughs) Ha ha!

1st Brahmana: What? What are you doing? I'm meditating!

Nimai: What is this OM? Chant Hare Krsna! It is unnecessary for you to meditate any longer, Sri Sadhu, as you can see the object of your meditation is now standing before you.

1st Brahmana: You little rascal! I'll teach You!

Nimai: Watch your temper, Sri Sadhu! Remember - you're meditating! Chant Hare Krsna, instead!

1st Brahmana: Chant Hare Krsna, eh? You impudent brat, don't you tell me how to meditate. I'm a dozen years Your elder and if I catch You ... **(He starts to chase Nimai.)**

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: Get out of here right now!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!
(They run about in a circle then Nimai goes off and 2nd Brahmana enters.)

2nd Brahmana: Hello Sivatma, meditating are you?

1st Brahmana: Well, yes, actually I was ... in fact I was almost merged with the Void when I heard a definite loud OM in response and then He splashed me in the face!

2nd Brahmana: Who! The Void?

1st Brahmana: No, the boy! The boy!

2nd Brahmana: Ohhhh.

1st Brahmana: Then He demanded that I chant some silly mantra ... what was it? Uhhh ...

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: Yes, that's it! Hey, that's Him!

2nd Brahmana: Oh, I know that Boy, who could forget that golden hue? That's Jagannath Misra's son. What was His Name? Ah yes, Nimai! He was born on the night of the eclipse some years ago. So He is a nuisance, eh?

1st Brahmana: He certainly is!

2nd Brahmana: (Calling Nimai over) Shame, shame Nimai! Yes, I know Your name

and Your father's too. You belong in school, not running up and down the Ganges taunting sadhus who sit to meditate upon Brahman, throwing water in their faces! You are so disrespectful!

Nimai: But, I am full of respect for those worthy of it - the Ganges, the Holy Scriptures and Krsna's Holy Name, therefore I respectfully request you to Chant Hare Krsna!
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!
(Nimai runs off)

1st Brahmana: There He goes again! I think that the boy is stark, raving mad! The eclipse of the sun on the day He was born has had some effect on Him, I'm sure of it.

2nd Brahmana: Yes, someone should be informed. His father is both a scholar and a well respected man of Navadvip. It is indeed unfortunate that one should have such a crazy one for a son. I sympathize!

1st Brahmana: In any case, I'll chase Him away! Get out of here, You unmanageable wretch! Go on, scram ! Get out of here!

Nimai: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare*
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(The 1st Brahmana chases Nimai off stage.)

2nd Brahmana: "Ah, such is the age, from the sorrow and strife the Holy Ganges is not exempt. A carnival of demons is abrew, those who conquer passion are too few."

1st Brahmana: There (whew) I gave that Golden Rascal a good chase, even at my age. He won't be coming back soon, thank God!

2nd Brahmana: Sivatma, you should restrain yourself. Stress is not good for a man of your age.

Both: Let's meditate! OOOOOOMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from behind bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

2nd Brahmana: Oh no He's back!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

1st Brahmana: This is too much!

2nd Brahmana: You better run, You rascal!

1st Brahmana: I curse the day You were born! **(Now he almost bumps into Jagannath Misra.)** Aaahhh, Jagannath Misra, how fortunate we are to meet you,

today! **(in a deep voice)** I offer you my Blessings! **(resuming normal voice)** However, I have some bad news about your son ...

Jagannath Misra: Nimai? Is He alright? Is He in danger?

2nd Brahmana: Alright? Is He alright? He's more than alright, He is a downright nuisance, that's what He is.

1st Brahmana: My wrath is the only thing He is in danger of ...

Jagannath Misra: What has He done to cause this consternation, my gentle Sadhus?

2nd Brahmana: I regret to say that He is not as studious as His father. Instead of schoolrooms, it seems He prefers riverbanks! Why, just now He was skipping all around demanding that we chant some nonsense!

1st Brahmana: Twice today he has disturbed me!

Jagannath Misra: This is most strange. Nimai went to school today, as usual, with His books, dressed appropriately. Why, I even walked Him to the door.

2nd Brahmana: Then He is more clever than you, Jagannath Misra. I tell you, He was running up and down these banks!

1st Brahmana: Like a half naked demon out of hell chanting that mantra! And it wasn't just today either. Many days we see Him taunting the bathers.

2nd Brahmana: He drenches the bathers, touches them and even spouts water from His mouth on them! Sometimes underwater, unobserved, he drags away a bather by the legs while he is engaged in performing his religious ceremonies.

1st Brahmana: He throws sand at us, just when we have finished our bath. He exchanges our clothes for those of the women while we are in the water. He does this every day, spending half the day in the water, it seems likely that He will fall ill.
(pointing offstage) Look! There goes Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya now - wearing a pink sari!! Proof that your Son, Nimai has been at His mischief again! **(Brahmana with white beard dashes by in a roughly wrapped sari, acting very embarrassed.)**

2nd Brahmana: And that's not the half of it! He even dares to say that He is the object of our meditation and that we should chant some silly mantra. He eats all the offerings meant for Lord Vishnu and steals everyone's Holy Books. And we are not the only ones with complaints against Your son, the girls making offerings to Lord Siva are always disturbed by Young Nimai and when they protest He simply curses them!

Jagannath Misra: It is most strange indeed. Such absences would have been reported by His teachers and our Nimai has never exhibited such naughtiness in our presence. His teachers tell me that Nimai is exemplary in all respects.

1st Brahmana: Exemplary only in raising hell! He ran that way if you care to follow His fiery path!
(Nimai walks in from the opposite direction, carrying schoolbooks.)

Nimai: Good afternoon dear Brahmanas! Father, what are you doing here?

Jagannath Misra: Nimai, it's not true after all! How was school today?

Nimai: Great, we received a new Sanskrit text!

Jagannath Misra: Gentlemen, this is my son, Nimai. You have no doubt mistaken Him for some urchin, how I do not know.

2nd Brahmana: I could never mistake that golden hue, still, this hardly seems like the boy we saw earlier.

1st Brahmana: If it is not Him, it is His better twin, for sure! This is most puzzling!

Jagannath Misra: Nimai, these men are complaining about Your behavior at the river, today.

Nimai: The river! But, I have not been to the river today. I was in school.

1st Brahmana: Do not tell lies, Young Man ...

Nimai: Just see, I still have ink marks on My hands. I have just arrived from school.

Jagannath Misra: I understand my friends - it is said that for holy men such as yourself all creatures look the same, being but reflections of the Supreme Lord. This mistake is simply a sign of your progressive sanctity. No harm done. Please, do not hesitate to join us for noon meals. Good day!
(Nimai and Jagannath Misra leave the confused Brahmanas.)

1st Brahmana: I just don't get it!

2nd Brahmana: Mental platform, my dear Sivatma. Mental platform!
Nimai couldn't be the boy we saw as He dashed in the other direction, wearing different clothes!

1st Brahmana: No doubt some devil's play is here. Kali's age is most trying for sadhus, as none will deny.

2nd Brahmana: Yes, yes, it is most fitting that demons try to trick us. Insanity is Maya's threat to those who would try to escape her.
We should redouble our efforts!

1st Brahmana: And strengthen our vows!

Both: Let's meditate! OOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMMM! OOOOOOOOOMMMMMM!

Nimai: (Jumps up from bush and screams loudly!) AAAAAAAHHHH!

Both: OH, NO!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna**!**

2nd Brahmana: This is too much!

1st Brahmana: I don't believe it! You better run right now!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: You should be arrested!

Nimai: Chant Hare Krsna! Chant Hare Krsna!

2nd Brahmana: Catch Him!

1st Brahmana: Get out of here! Get out of here!
(They chase Nimai off stage, then Nimai returns alone.)

Nimai: Oh Me, alone at last! Flow on Mother Ganges - what fools sit upon your banks today? What silly, boy crazed girls with their offerings? What pompous old men holding their breath and for what? So they may **(in a pompous voice)** "float upon the moon like a balloon" or pop! Ha Ha! Oh how they meditate! I think I would pop if all I had to do was sit around each day shouting "OOOOMMM!" Ha Ha! How can anyone think of anything else but Govinda? How can they even breathe without saying His Name - Krsna! Krsna! Krsna!?
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare
(Music)

SCENE NINE Disturbing the Young Girls

Narrator: It was the common practice in Nimai's village for the unmarried girls to worship Lord Siva in hopes of getting a good husband. While they were engaged in their worship young Nimai would come there with His friends and sit among them. Addressing the girls, the Lord Would say:

Nimai: My dear sisters, please give Me all the offerings you have brought for Lord Siva. The Ganges and the Goddess Durga are My maidservants. Even Lord Siva is My servant.
(Nimai picks up garland and puts it on.)

1st Girl: Dear Nimai, You are just like our brother in our village relationship, therefore You should not act like this!
(Nimai grabs the plate of sweets and starts to eat them.The boys laugh. The girls are horrified.)

2nd Girl: Don't take our paraphernalia for worship!

3rd Girl: Don't create a disturbance in this way! I will go to Your mother, You know!

Nimai: My dear sisters, if you give Me all the offerings you have brought for Lord Siva, I will give you the benediction that your husbands will be very handsome. They will be clever, learned and young. Not only that, but will each of you will have seven sons and great wealth! **(The girls smile shyly but externally they rebuke the Lord under the pretense of anger.)**

1st Girl: We do not believe You! Let's go!
(The girls quickly gather up the paraphernalia to leave.)

2nd Girl: What benediction can You give, anyway!?

Nimai: If you are miserly and do not give Me all the offerings, then every one of you will have an old husband and at least four co-wives!!

Narrator: Hearing this supposed curse by Nimai, the girls considered that He might know something uncommon or be empowered by the demigods. Since they were afraid that His curse might be effective, they brought the offerings before Nimai who ate them all and blessed the girls to obtain their heart's wishes.

1st Girl: Nimai has spoiled our puja for today, anyway. Here Nimai, tell me if you like this fruit salad I have prepared.
(Nimai eats and eats, passing some remnants to the other boys.)

3rd Girl: Please lie down here in the shade and I will fan you!
(Music)

SCENE TEN At The Garbage Dump

Narrator: From morning 'til night, Nimai would play and cause mischief. Day after day, He made trouble but Jagannath Misra would not chastise Him. Then, one day, Nimai climbed upon a huge pile of discarded pots and told the boys to call His Mother to the spot ...

Boys: (calling) Mother Saci! Mother Saci!
(they exit, in a moment Mother Saci runs on)

Saci: Nimai! What are You doing sitting there? Get down! Don't You know that is not a proper place to sit?

Nimai: Mother, since you have not sent Me to school, I've forgotten what is right and what is wrong.

Saci: Your clothes have become dirty. Get down quickly!

Nimai: Without an education, I am unable to realize the difference between clean and dirty.

Saci: Please don't joke with me. These pots are contaminated and You're sitting in an impure place. Climb down immediately!

Nimai: This place where I sit is impure? Even if it is impure, wherever I sit becomes pure. All the Holy Places and the Ganges River reside wherever I am.

Saci: Why are You speaking like this? Please get down.

1st Neighbor: What is happening? Nimai, what is the matter?

Nimai: My Mother and Father will not allow me to study, therefore I am sitting here and I will not get down.

2nd Neighbor: (to Saci) Why do you forbid Nimai to go to school.

Saci: It is the will of His father.

2nd Neighbor: You cannot allow Nimai to grow up a fool. Come Child, get down and we shall speak to Your father. **(Nimai climbs down, all exit, music)**

SCENE ELEVEN At Jagannath Misra's Ashram

2nd Neighbor: Dear friend, please don't forbid Nimai to study. Whatever Lord Krishna desires will come true. We cannot control destiny with our meager plans. Discard your fears, and do what is right.

1st Neighbor: You are very fortunate that your son desires to learn. Choose an auspicious day and have Nimai initiated with the sacred thread. Let the Boy again study.

Jagannath Misra: You are my dearest friends and my elders. If all of you insist, I will agree.

3rd Neighbor: Your child is not an ordinary boy. Keep Him close to your heart with great care.

Jagannath Misra: Yes, I will. Thank you for coming. Hare Krsna!
(They all exit.)

Narrator: Thus Nimai, the Supreme Lord of Vaikuntha, enjoyed His own transcendental pastimes and, with His father's permission, He joyfully returned to His studies. Soon He was known as Nimai Pandit, a teacher of grammar who used the scriptures brilliantly in His lessons.

The Story of Raghunath dasa Goswami
adapted for puppet theater by Radha Damodar dasa

Narrator: When Raghunath dasa, in his youth, went to see Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu at Santipura, the Lord gave him worthy instructions, by His causeless mercy.

Raghunath dasa: Please take me with you, Lord Caitanya! I want to stay with you always!

Lord Caitanya: Instead of becoming a so-called renunciate, Raghunath dasa, return home and execute your family responsibilities while thinking of Krsna.

Narrator: But, after one year, he still desired to leave home and join Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's Sankirtana party. He got up alone one night and left but his father caught him in a distant place and brought him back. This became a daily affair - Raghunath would run away from home and his father would again bring him back. His family members were all devotees of Lord Krsna but, out of attachment for Raghunath dasa, they wanted him to stay in their association.

Mother: Our son has become mad! Just keep him at home by binding him with rope!!

Father: Our son has opulence like Indra, the King of Heaven his wife is as beautiful as an angel, yet all this could not tie down his mind! How then could we keep this boy home by binding him with ropes? It is not possible for one's father to stop the reactions of one's past activities. Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu has fully bestowed His mercy on our son. Who can keep home such a madman of Caitanya Candra?

Narrator: On one such venture Raghunath dasa entered the camp of Lord Nityananda as He rested in the forest.

Servant: There is Raghunath Dasa offering you obeisance!

Lord Nityananda: (to Raghunath dasa) You are a thief! Now you have come to see Me? Come here. Come here. Today I shall punish you! What? You don't come? Alright, I will catch you and forcibly put my feet upon your head. **(Lord Nityananda does so)** There! You are just like a thief because instead of coming near you stay away at a distant place. Now that I have captured you I shall punish you. I desire that you feed all my associates here. You have the means to do that. Make a festival at the riverbank and feed all my associates on yogurt and chipped rice.

Narrator: The next day Raghunath dasa held a huge festival and hundreds of devotees and Brahmanas attended. Each devotee was given two earthen pots - one of chipped rice soaked in yogurt and the other of chipped rice soaked in condensed milk. When chipped rice had been served to everyone Lord Nityananda in meditation brought Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu there. From each and every person's pot, Lord Nityananda took one morsel of chipped rice and pushed it into the mouth of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu as a joke. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, also smiling, took one morsel from each pot and pushed it into the mouth of

Lord Nityananda and laughed as He made Lord Nityananda eat it. No one could understand what Lord Nityananda was doing as He walked about. Some however, who were fortunate, could see that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was also present.
(music, set change)

Narrator: The next day, Raghunath dasa requested Lord Nityananda to help Him attain the personal association of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Lord Nityananda assured him that he would have his desire fulfilled very soon. Raghunath dasa returned home but did not enter the interior part of the house. He slept outside on the Durga Mendapa, the place where Mother Durga was worshipped. His father posted a guard there day and night to see that Raghunath dasa did not escape. One night, he saw an opportunity:

Raghunath dasa: It's almost morning, all the guards are fast asleep, I may be able to slip away! There's my family priest, Yadunandana Acharya, I'll try to get him to send me on an errand. **(He runs over to Guru and offers obeisances.)** How may I serve you, Gurudeva?

Yadunandana Acharya: I do have one service for you. One of my disciples has left his service to the Diety, and there is no one else to do it. Therefore, I want you to speak to him to convince him to continue his service until another priest is trained to replace him.

Raghunath dasa: Yes, Gurudeva, I'll go talk to him immediately!
(he runs off)

Narrator: Raghunath dasa walked east for twelve days, constantly remembering Lord Krsna and at last reached Jagannatha Puri where he searched out Lord Caitanya and His associates in the rooms they kept in the temple of Lord Jagannath.

Lord Caitanya: Jai! Raghunath dasa has at mlast come to join our Sankirtana party permanently! I am so glad! **(they embrace)** The mercy of Lord Krsna is stronger than anything else, therefore the Lord has delivered you from the ditch of materialistic life which is like a hole into which people pass stool.

Raghunath dasa: I do not know who Krsna is. I simply know that Your mercy, O my Lord, has saved me from my family life.

Lord Caitanya: My dear Raghunath dasa, your father and his elder brother are just like worms in stool in the great disease of materialism. The poison of material enjoyment is what they consider happiness. Now, Raghunath dasa, I am giving you into the care of my servant, Svarupa Damodar, accept him as your son or servant. I have three Raghunath's in my association now, so I will call you the Raghu of Svarupa Damodar.

Narrator: For five days, Raghunath dasa accepted the remnants of Lord Caitanya's meals, given to him by Svarupa Damodar, but on the sixth day, he went to stand at the temple gate to beg alms of the priests of Lord Jagannath as they would return home at night.

Lord Caitanya: Where is your Raghunath? I have not seen him at meals for

several days.

Svarupa Damodar: Raghunath dasa no longer takes prasad here. Now he stands at the temple gate and begs.

Lord Caitanya: Raghunath dasa has done well. He has acted suitably for a person in the renounced order of life.
(music)

Narrator: One day Raghunath dasa asked Lord Caitanya:

Raghunath dasa: My Lord, what is my duty and what is my goal in life?

Lord Caitanya: Do not talk like people in general or hear what they say. You should not eat very palatable food, nor should you dress very nicely. Do not expect honor, but offer all respect to others. Always chant the Holy names of Lord Krsna and within your mind render service to Radha and Krsna in Vrindavana.

Narrator: When Raghunath dasa's parents heard that their son was begging on the streets of Jagannath Puri they became very unhappy and they sent some servants to Jagannath Puri with four hundred gold coins to give to him. Raghunath dasa would not accept his father's money. He kept only the cost of inviting Lord Caitanya to lunch two days each month. This he did for two years.

Lord Caitanya: Why does Raghunath dasa not invite me to prasad anymore?

Svarupa Damodar: He has stopped taking his father's money and he now begs food at a booth for free food distribution.

Lord Caitanya: Ah, that is good! A Brahmana should not be dependant on others for his maintenance.

Narrator: As Raghunath dasa advanced in Krsna Consciousness he became more and more austere. Raghunath dasa spent more than twenty-two hours out of every day chanting the Hare Krsna Mahamantra and remembering the Lotus Feet of Lord Krsna in Vrindavana. He ate and slept less than one and a half hours a day and on some days he even forgot to do that.

Lord Caitanya: I have not seen Raghunath dasa by the booths for food distribution for some weeks, how is he eating, then?

Svarupa Damodar: The remnants of Lord Jagannath's maha prasad is sold by shopkeepers to tourists and householders and that which is not sold spoils after two or three days. All the rotten food is thrown before the cows at night. Raghunath dasa is always absorbed in thoughts of Lord Krsna. Once a day, at dusk, he collects the food which even the cows would not eat. He will bring it to his hut, wash it and then eat the hard inner portion of the prasad with a little salt.

Lord Caitanya: I will immediately search him out and chastise him!
(Lord Caitanya exits. Raghunath dasa enters and puts down some old prasad. Lord

Caitanya bursts in. Raghunath dasa offers obeisances.)

Lord Caitanya: You rascal! What nice things are you eating? Why didn't you give anything to Me? **(Lord Caitanya greedily eats large quantities of the old, spoiled prasad.)**

Raghunath dasa: No Lord, please. This food is not fit for You!

Lord Caitanya: But this is Lord Jagannath's prasad! Of course, everyday I eat varieties of prasad, but I have never tasted such nice prasad as that which Raghunath dasa is eating!

Raghunath dasa: Jai Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu! Jai Sri Krsna! Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare!

Narrator: Thus I have described the association of Raghunath dasa and Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Anyone who hears these pastimes will attain the Lotus Feet of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.
(kirtan or exit music)

Ramachandra Puri

by Bhurijana dasa

Narrator: Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and if one hears about His character one easily receives ecstatic love for the Lotus Feet of Lord Sri Krsna. The spiritual master of Lord Caitanya was Sri Isvara Puri and the spiritual master of Isvara Puri was the great Madhavendra Puri. It is said that Madhavendra Puri sowed the seed of ecstasy, love for Krsna, within this material world and that seed later became a great tree in the form of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

At the last stage of his life, Madhavendra Puri was deeply experiencing his love for Krsna. While his disciple, Isvara Puri, tended to his guru's personal needs and chanted the Holy Names of the Lord, Madhavendra Puri's transcendental love was further increased by his mood of being very far away from the Lord.

Madhavendra Puri: O my Lord, Krsna, I did not get the shelter of Mathura!

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

O my Lord! O merciful Master! O Master of Mathura! When shall I see You again? Because by not seeing You, my agitated heart has become unsteady! O Most-Beloved One! What shall I do now?

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Ramachandra Puri: What is this? O spiritual master, now is the time to remember and be fully aware of Brahman! The great the formless remember the formless the light!

Madhavendra Puri: Get out! Get out you sinful, rascal disciple of mine!

Ramachandra Puri: But one should not lament for anything, what to speak of crying! Remember Brahman! Remember the Bhagavad Gita!

Madhavendra Puri: Ramachandra Puri! Get out!

Ramachandra Puri: *Brahma bhuta prasanatma*! Be one with Brahman! Be joyful!

Madhavendra Puri: Get out! O my Lord, Krsna! I could not reach You; nor could I reach Your abode, Mathura! I am dying in my unhappiness and now this rascal disciple has come to give me more pain!

Ramachandra Puri: *Na socati* means never laments. *Na konksati* means a wise person never desires to have anything.

Madhavendra Puri: Go away! I don't want to see your face anymore! Go anywhere else you like. If I die seeing your face I'll not be able to go back to home, back to Godhead Go!

Ramachandra Puri: Remember Brahman!

Madhavendra Puri: Immediately! **(Ramachandra Puri goes)** I am dying without achieving the shelter of Krsna and therefore I am greatly unhappy Now, this condemned rascal has come to instruct me about Brahman!

IP: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Madhavendra Puri: Isvara Puri, you are a good disciple. Come **(embraces him)** I give you the benediction that you will become a great devotee and lover of Lord Krsna.

IP: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Madhavendra Puri: Hare Krsna!

Narrator: His Divine Grace Madhavendra Puri was the spiritual master of the entire world. He had no material thoughts, words or deeds. He was completely absorbed in the deepest ecstasy of love for Krsna and thus Madhavendra Puri, assisted by Isvara Puri, remembered the Holy Name and pastimes of Krsna at the time of his death and went back to home, back to Godhead. Because of his sincere service, Srila Isvara Puri received the blessing of Madhavendra Puri, whereas Ramachandra Puri, because of his great offense of foolishly and fearlessly instructing his spiritual master, was condemned. Madhavendra Puri thereby instructed the entire world on the difference between a great personality's blessings and punishment.

Thus, Isvara Puri became an ocean of ecstatic love for Krsna and he was so fortunate that he became the spiritual master of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

On the other hand, due to his offenses, material desire appeared within Ramachandra Puri. He became a dry speculator who had no relationship with Krsna. His only business became to criticize the Vaisnavas. Years later, the seed of his offense having fully ripened, the envious Ramachandra Puri arrived in Jagannatha Puri, where he came to meet Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

Scene Two - Lord Caitanya's House

Caitanya: *Hari Haraye Namah *

Paramananda Puri: *Krsna Yadavaya Namah *

Both: *Yadavaya Madhavaya Kesavaya Namah*

Narrator: Paramananda Puri Goswami is a disciple of Madhavendra Puri and the god-brother of Isvara Puri and Ramachandra Puri. In Krsna Lila, Paramananda Puri was non-other than Lord Krsna's friend and uncle Uddhava. Paramananda Puri is very sober and grave.

(Ramachandra Puri enters)

Paramananda Puri: Ramachandra Puri! **(everyone pays obeisances. Ramachandra Puri embraces them both.)**
It's uhhh, good to see you!

Ramachandra Puri: Thank you.

Paramananda Puri: So, you've finally come □

Ramachandra Puri: Yes, I've been touring, and on my travels I've seen many holy places. And in each holy place, I've seen whichever form of God that was worshipped there.

Paramananda Puri: How long will you be staying?

Ramachandra Puri: Actually, I wish to live here. But, as I am renounced, being a sannyasi, a swami, goswami or gosai, say my title as you wish but, in any case, I, being fully renounced, sometimes stay here and sometimes exhibit my renunciation and leave.
(Jagadananda Puri enters, pays obeisances.)

Paramananda Puri: Jagadananda, I would like you to meet my Godbrother, Ramachandra Puri.

Jagadananda Puri: Oh, a disciple of MP! Please honor me by taking prasadam at my home today!

Ramachandra Puri: Thank you, thank you. I've been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to eat with the followers of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu for I have heard much about their eating habits.

Jagadananda Puri: Huh?

Ramachandra Puri: Let's go!

Scene Three - At the Ashram of Jagadananda Puri

Jagadananda Puri: Please sit down, and I'll bring your lunch. It's all Jagannatha prasadam!

Ramachandra Puri: Very nice ... very nice□ more rice, more subji, more rice, more dahl, more sweets, subji □ rice□ a little more rice, thank you □ sweets, please □ subji □ one more □. Jai! You have certainly taken nice care of me □ but now I have a request for you □

Jagadananda Puri: And what is that?

Ramachandra Puri: Please listen, my dear Jagadananda, you eat the prasadam that is left!

Jagadananda Puri: No. That isn't necessary; I'll eat later.

Ramachandra Puri: No no no! You take prasadam now, and I'll personally serve

you!

Jagadananda Puri: Please, no!

Ramachandra Puri: I insist. Sit right here and enjoy Lord Jagannath's remnants! First rice, dahl and subji and more rice here's more dahl more rice some sweets

Jagadananda Puri: But, I can't eat so much, please stop!

Ramachandra Puri: My dear boy, you can't refuse Lord Jagannatha's remnants more rice some sweets

Jagadananda Puri: No!

Ramachandra Puri: But,I insist! Sweet balls yogurt and more rice and dahl there and more subji one more sweet now, have you taken to your full satisfaction?

Jagadananda Puri: Ohhhh!

Ramachandra Puri: Go and wash your hands and mouth and when you return I wish to have a few words with you.
(Jagadananda Puri exits)

Ramachandra Puri: (to audience) It is just as I thought! Did you see how much he ate? Disgraceful!
(Jagadananda Puri returns)
I had previously heard that the followers of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu ate more than necessary, and now I have seen for myself that it is true!

Jagadananda Puri: What!?

Ramachandra Puri: First, you forced me to overeat. Were you trying to destroy my renunciation?? Don't you know that feeding a s too much breaks his regulative principles? When a s eats too much, his renunciation is destroyed!

Jagadananda Puri: I made you eat too much??

Ramachandra Puri: Then, you greedily started eating. How you insisted on eating more and more astounded me! Abhorring! **(to audience)** Huh I'll make it my duty to check up on how these "devotees" eat and sleep. I'll especially gather information on their leader Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Narrator: So the envious Ramachandra Puri began searching for faults in Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and the other devotees. He would arrive uninvited at someone's house and demand food. After being fed, he would carefully keep records on how much everyone else ate. However, although Ramachandra Puri searched and searched, he still could not discover any fault in Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.
(lights dim and increase.)

Ramachandra Puri: (to audience) What do you mean, I couldn't find any fault?

I did find one! ha ha! It is this - I ask you to consider: how can a person in the renounced order of life eat □ so □ many □ sweets? And you all consider yourselves followers of that sweetmeat eater, don't you? Well, I am going to Sri Caitanya's house now for my daily inspection ... I mean visit □ and I am going to make a thorough search for evidence to support my theory!

Scene Four - Lord Caitanya's House

Ramachandra Puri: (clears throat) umhmm! **(He searches room.)**

Caitanya: Oh! **(offers obeisances)** You are a god-brother of My spiritual master and therefore an honored guest!

Ramachandra Puri: Aha! Aha! Aha! Aha! Just see! It is just as I thought! Ants are wandering everywhere!! Here is the proof that last night, You ate sugar candy here! Alas, alas - this "renounced" sanyassi is attached to sense gratification!
(Ramachandra Puri leaves)

Caitanya: I had heard rumors about Ramachandra Puri's faultfinding and now I have seen it for Myself. **(calls)** Govinda! Please come here!

Govinda: Yes, Mahaprabhu?

Caitanya: Tell the devotees that, from today on, I will eat only a few palm-fulls of rice and a small amount of vegetables.

Govinda: Oh no! Why is this?

Caitanya: Tell them that if they offer Me more than this, they will not see Me in Jagannatha Puri anymore.
(lights fade)

Narrator: Of the small quantity of rice that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu accepted, He ate half and the rest was taken by His servant Govinda. Seeing this, the devotees in Jagannath Puri felt as if their heads had been struck by lightning, and so they also gave up eating. All the devotees condemned Ramachandra Puri saying, "This sinful man has come here and taken our lives!" When Ramachandra Puri heard of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's reduced eating, he again went to see the Lord.

Caitanya: *Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Ramachandra Puri: Huh! It is not the business of a sannyasi to take pleasure in his austerities. He should simply fill his belly somehow or other! I have already explained to You that a sannyasi should not eat for sense pleasure! But, You have cut Your eating in half! Indeed, I see that You are skinny! A sannyasi should not take up dry renunciation either!

Caitanya: I am just like an ignorant schoolboy and I am like your disciple. My good fortune is that you are kindly instructing me.

Ramachandra Puri: Remember the Bhagavad Gita!! *Natyashnatas stu yopsti* - One cannot perform yoga if he eats more than necessary or needlessly or needlessly fasts. One must regulate his eating and his sleeping while practicing mystic yoga.
(Ramachandra Puri storms out.)

Narrator: The next day, Paramananda Puri approached Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu with great humility

Paramananda Puri: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, my god-brother Ramachandra Puri is nothing but a harsh critic! Why cut Your eating in half!?

Caitanya: Why are you angry at Ramachandra Puri? He is repeating the regular principles of a sannyasi's life. A sannyasi naturally favors austerity.

Paramananda Puri: That may be true but why take his word seriously? First he artfully tricks someone into overeating and then criticizes him, saying, "You eat too much! How much money do you have in your treasury?"

Caitanya: A sannyasi who eats to satisfy His tongue deserves criticism.

Paramananda Puri: But, then Ramachandra Puri overeats and criticizes his host saying, "You have forced me, a sannyasi, to overeat! I can understand that you are not advanced!"

Caitanya: A sannyasi's business is eating only enough to maintain his body.

Paramananda Puri: Ramachandra Puri's business is only faultfinding!! He researches how others eat and how they live their lives! He never sees any good in anyone, even if one has hundreds of good qualities! Lord Caitanya, why take his petty faultfinding seriously? Please eat as much as you were eating before! That is my request!

Caitanya: My dear Paramananda Puri, I shall still eat only half as much as usual.
(lights dim. Paramananda Puri shaking his head sorrowfully)

Narrator: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu acted independently. At times, He heeded the words of Ramachandra Puri and, at other times, He didn't listen at all. Thus, the Lords allowed the devotees of Jagannatha Puri to observe Ramachandra Puri's faultfinding character and see first hand the devastating effect offending one's spiritual master has upon one's devotional service. Everyone could understand that if one's spiritual master rejects him, he becomes so fallen that he, like Ramachandra Puri, commits offenses even to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Please hear about the character of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu for it is full of nectar and is pleasing to the ear and to the mind. By hearing with attention, you will easily attain ecstatic love for the lotus feet of Lord Sri Krsna.

As long as Ramachandra Puri stayed in Jagannath Puri, all the

devotees felt his presence as a great disturbance. One day, however

Scene Five

Devotee 1: Have you heard the news?

Devotee 2: No, what is it?

Devotee 1: He's finally exhibited his opulence of renunciation!

Devotee 2: Has he really?

Devotee 1: Yes, Ramachandra Puri has gone on pilgrimage!

Devotee 2: Whew, I'm glad India has so many holy places!

Devotee 3: I feel as if a great stone has suddenly fallen off my head!

Devotee 1: Me, too! Let's go have a kirtan!

Devotee 2: No! I have a better idea - let's take prasadam!

Devotee 1 and Devotee 3: Jaya!

Narrator: As soon as Ramachandra Puri left, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, began accepting invitations from His devotees as before, and the residents of Jagannath Puri again began honoring Krsna prasadam to their full satisfaction!(kirtan)

RUPA GOSWAMI'S SECOND MEETING WITH LORD CHAITANYA

from *Sri Chaitanya-Charitamrita, Antya-lila* Chapter 1
adapted by Dasarath Suta Das

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CAST: Narrator, Rupa Goswami, Haridas Thakura, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Swarupa Damodara, Ramananda Roy. (optional Advaita, Nityananda, Sarvabhauma)

(NOTE: This play is intended to be performed for devotees only. Note also that when Rupa Goswami reads his nectar-verses to the devotees, the actor may thus read them without having to memorize them.)

INVOCATION

Narrator: I offer my respectful obeisances to Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, by whose mercy even a lame man can cross over a mountain and a dumb man can recite Vedic literature.

Glory to the all-merciful Radha and Madana-Mohana! I am lame and ill-advised, yet They are my directors, and Their lotus feet are everything to me.

In a temple of jewels in Vrindavan, underneath a desire tree, Sri Sri Radha-Govinda, served by Their most confidential associates, sit upon an effulgent throne. I offer my humble obeisances unto Them.

Sri Srila Gopinath, who originated the transcendental mellow of the Rasa-dance, stands on the shore at Vamshi-vata and attracts the attention of the cowherd damsels with the sound of His celebrated flute. May they all confer upon us their benediction.

All glories to Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu! All glories to Lord Nityananda! All glories to Advaita Acharya! All glories to the devotees of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu!

SCENE ONE

(During narration, Rupa Goswami walks around stage as if traveling)

Narrator: Following the order of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Srila Rupa Goswami returned to Vrindavan. He desired to write a drama concerning the pastimes of Lord Krishna, and in Vrindavan he began writing it. In particular, he composed the introductory verses to

invoke good fortune. Later, on his way back to Gauda-desha, Rupa Goswami had been thinking of how to write the action of the drama, and thus he had made some notes and begun composing some verses. In this way Rupa reached Bengal, and then departed to see Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in Puri, for he was very eager to see Him.

In the province of Orissa there is a place known as Satyabhama-pura. Srila Rupa Goswami rested for a night in that village on his way to Jagannath Puri. **(Rupa lies down to rest)** While resting in Satyabhama-pura, he dreamed that a celestially beautiful woman had come before him and very mercifully gave him the following order. **(Satyabhama Devi appears briefly on side of stage)**

Satyabhama: O Rupa! Please write a separate drama about me. By my mercy, it will be extraordinarily beautiful.

Rupa: **(suddenly wakes up)** It is the order of Satyabhama that I write a separate drama for her. I have brought together in one work all the pastimes performed by Lord Krishna in Vrindavan as well as in Dwaraka. Now I shall have to divide them into two dramas.

Narrator: Thus absorbed in thought, Rupa Goswami quickly reached Jagannath Puri. When he arrived, he approached the hut of Haridas Thakura. Out of affectionate love and mercy, Haridas Thakura addressed Srila Rupa Goswami. **(Haridas enters)**

Haridas: Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has already informed me that you would come here. Every day after seeing the noontime *upala-bhoga* ceremony at the Jagannath temple, the Lord usually comes here to see me. **(Lord Chaitanya suddenly arrives with His devotees, Rupa and Haridas immediately offer obeisances)**

Haridas: O Lord, this is Rupa Goswami offering You obeisances. **(Lord Chaitanya embraces Rupa, then sits down with them)**

Chaitanya: O Haridas! O Rupa! I am so fortunate to see you here. What is the auspicious news?

Haridas: O Lord! Everything here is fine, according to Your mercy.

Rupa: By Your mercy, O Lord, I have arrived here safely from Vrindavan. I have been very anxious to see You!

Chaitanya: What is the news about Sanatana Goswami?

Rupa: I did not meet him. I came by the path on the bank of the Ganges, whereas Sanatana Goswami came by the public road. Therefore we did not meet. In Prayaga I heard that he had already gone to Vrindavan.

Chaitanya: Very well. I shall have his association some other time. During your stay here in Puri, you may reside in that hut which is nearby Haridas's. Now I want you to meet all My personal associates. This is Advaita Acharya, this is Nityananda Prabhu, this is Swarupa Damodara, this is Ramananda Roy, this is Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya. **(Rupa Goswami offers obeisances unto their lotus feet, and all the devotees individually embrace him)**

Chaitanya: (addresses Advaita Acharya and Nityananda Prabhu) You should both show Your mercy wholeheartedly to Rupa Goswami. May Rupa Goswami, by Your mercy, become so powerful that he will be able to write many books that describe the transcendental mellows of devotional service. **(Advaita and Nityananda lavish mercy upon Rupa. Lord Chaitanya then addresses Rupa)** Every day I shall come here to see you, and whatever *prasad* I received from the Jagannath temple I will deliver to you and Haridas.

Rupa: Thus receiving the transcendental favor of You and Your devotees, O Lord, I feel unlimited pleasure!

Chaitanya: Before I go now to perform My noontime duties, I have one thing to say to you: Do not try to take Krishna out of Vrindavan, for He does not go anywhere else at any time. The Krishna known as Yadu-kumara is Vasudeva Krishna, who is different from the Krishna who is the son of Nanda Maharaja. Yadu-kumara Krishna manifests His pastimes in the cities of Mathura and Dwaraka, but Krishna the son of Nanda Maharaja never leaves Vrindavan at any time. **(Lord Chaitanya leaves along with His associates)**

Rupa: I am somewhat surprised by this statement of the Lord! Satyabhama ordered me to write two different dramas. Now I understand that this order has been confirmed by Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Formerly I wrote the two dramas as one composition; now I shall divide it and describe the incidents in two separate works. I shall also have to write two separate invocations of good fortune and two introductions. Let me think deeply about the matter and then describe these two different sets of incidents. I think I will compose the *Vidagdha-Madhava* to describe Lord Krishna's pastimes in Vrindavan, and the

Lalita-Madhava to describe His pastimes in Dwaraka and Mathura. **(he exits)**

SCENE TWO

(Rupa is sitting on side of stage, observing the Ratha-yatra *kirtan* party going by chanting *Jai Jagannath*)

Narrator: During the Ratha-yatra ceremony Rupa Goswami saw Lord Jagannath riding on His chariot. He also saw Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu dancing and chanting in front of the *ratha.* Generally Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu recited a verse while dancing and chanting before the *ratha,* but no one knew why He was reciting that particular verse. Only Swarupa Damodara Goswami knew the purpose for which the Lord recited that verse. According to the Lord's attitude, Swarupa Damodara used to quote other verses to enable the Lord to relish different mellows of ecstatic love. Rupa Goswami, however, could also understand the intention of the Lord, and thus he composed another verse that later appealed to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

Chaitanya: (comes to front of *kirtan* party and recites verse) That very personality who stole My heart during my youth is now again My master. These are the same moonlit nights of the month of Chaitra. The same fragrance of *malati* flowers is there, and the same sweet breezes are blowing from the *kadamba* forest. In our intimate relationship, I am also the same lover, yet still My mind is not happy here. I am eager to go back to that place on the bank of the Reva under the Vetasi tree. That is My desire. **(after recitation, *kirtan* party leaves stage, leaving only Rupa to write and then recite his own verse)**

Rupa: Let's see... here is another expression that is compatible with the Lord's statement:

My dear friend, now I have met My very old and dear friend Krishna on this field of Kuru-kshetra. I am the same Radharani, and now We are meeting together. It is very pleasant, but I would still like to go to the bank of the Yamuna beneath the trees of the forest there. I wish to hear the vibration of His sweet flute playing the fifth note within that forest of Vrindavan.

Well, now it's time for me to go and bathe in the sea. I'll just set this palm leaf up here in the corner of my thatched roof and work on this book later. **(he does so and exits. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu enters)**

Chaitanya: Rupa! O Rupa Goswami! Where are you? I've come to see you! O Rupa! Huh? What's this palm leaf sticking out of Rupa's thatched roof? Why, it's a Sanskrit verse... **(He reads it:)**

"My dear friend, now I have met My very old and dear friend Krishna on this field of Kuru-kshetra. I am the same Radharani, and now We are meeting together. It is very pleasant, but I would still like to go to the bank of the Yamuna beneath the trees of the forest there. I wish to hear the vibration of His sweet flute playing the fifth note within that forest of Vrindavan."

Oh My Goodness! This verse is causing Me to be overwhelmed by ecstatic love! **(Rupa Goswami returns, having finished bathing in the sea)**

Rupa: O my Lord! **(falls flat offering obeisances. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu slaps him mildly in love)**

Chaitanya: My heart is very confidential. How did you know My heart in this way? **(He firmly embraces Rupa Goswami, then calls for Swarupa Damodara)** O Swarupa Damodara!

Swarupa: **(enters quickly)** Yes, my Lord?

Chaitanya: Please look at this amazing verse composed by Rupa Goswami! Read it over and examine it carefully. How could Rupa Goswami have understood My heart?

Swarupa: **(reads verse silently)** I can ascertain that You have already bestowed Your causeless mercy upon him; otherwise, no one could understand this meaning.

Chaitanya: Rupa Goswami met Me at Prayaga. Knowing him to be a suitable person, I naturally bestowed My mercy upon him. I thereupon also bestowed upon him My transcendental potency. Now you also should give him instructions. In particular, instruct him in the science of *rasa,* transcendental mellows.

Swarupa: As soon as I saw the unique composition of this verse, I could immediately understand that You had bestowed upon him Your special mercy. As it is stated in the doctrines of *nyaya,* or logic "By seeing a result, one can understand the cause of that result."

Chaitanya: **(approaches Rupa again)** What kind of book are you writing? **(He holds up a page of Rupa's palm leaf manuscript)** When I see this fine handwriting, My mind is very pleased. The

handwriting of Rupa Goswami is just like rows of pearls! **(He silently reads for a moment)** Oh dear, what is this verse written here?! As soon as I read it, I find Myself overwhelmed by ecstatic love!

"I do not know how much nectar the two syllables `Krish-na' have produced. When the holy name of Krishna is chanted, it appears to dance within the mouth. We then desire many, many mouths. When that name enters the holes of the ears, we desire many millions of ears. And when the holy name dances in the courtyard of the heart, it conquers the activities of the mind, and therefore all the senses become inert."

Haridas: **(becomes jubilant and starts dancing)** Upon hearing the vibration of such a verse, all I can do is dance and praise its meaning! How wonderful! How wonderful! Yes, the holy name is this nectarean! Oh how we wish to chant it with many mouths, to hear it with millions of ears!

Narrator: Thus Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu embraced both Haridas and Rupa Goswami and left for the seaside to perform His noontime duties. **(the Lord and His associates exit)**

SCENE THREE

Narrator: On the next day, after visiting the temple of Jagannath as usual, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu met Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, Ramananda Roy, and Swarupa Damodara. They all went together to see Srila Rupa Goswami, and on the way the Lord greatly praised Rupa's qualities. When Haridas Thakura and Rupa Goswami saw that Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu had come with His intimate devotees, they both immediately fell down like logs and offered prayers to their lotus feet. The Lord then sat down in an elevated place with His devotees. Rupa Goswami and Haridas Thakura sat at the foot of the elevated place where Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was sitting.

Swarupa: Please come up here and sit on the same level as the Lord and His associates.

Rupa & Haridas: No, no, we cannot do so.

Ramananda: Please don't feel like this. I assure you it is alright. Come up here and be seated.

Rupa & Haridas: Thank you, but we are fine right where we are.

Chaitanya: Rupa Goswami! Now read that verse We had previously heard.

Rupa: (in great shyness he remains silent)

Swarupa: I will recite the verse. Brace yourself, O devotees, for when you hear it your minds will be struck with wonder:

"My dear friend, now I have met My very old and dear friend Krishna on this field of Kuru-kshetra. I am the same Radharani, and now We are meeting together. It is very pleasant, but I would still like to go to the bank of the Yamuna beneath the trees of the forest there. I wish to hear the vibration of His sweet flute playing the fifth note within that forest of Vrindavan."

Ramananda: (to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu) How wonderful! Without Your special mercy, O Lord, how could this Rupa Goswami have understood Your heart? Previously, dear Lord, You had also empowered my heart so that I could express elevated and conclusive statements to which even Lord Brahma has no access. Had You not already bestowed Your mercy on Rupa Goswami, it would not have been possible for him to express Your innermost feelings.

Chaitanya: My dear Rupa, please recite that other verse from your drama which, upon being heard, makes all people's unhappiness and lamentation go away.

Rupa: Whatever it was, I cannot remember it right now.

Chaitanya: Oh, please do not deprive us of this sweet nectar! Kindly recite that amazing verse about the holy name of Lord Krishna!

Rupa: "I do not know how much nectar the two syllables `Krish-na' have produced. When the holy name of Krishna is chanted, it appears to dance within the mouth. We then desire many, many mouths. When that name enters the holes of the ears, we desire many millions of ears. And when the holy name dances in the courtyard of the heart, it conquers the activities of the mind, and therefore all the senses become inert."

Ramananda: Oh, how wonderful! Just by hearing this verse, all the devotees are filled with transcendental bliss and are struck with wonder!

Swarupa: Although we have heard many statements glorifying the holy

name of the Lord, we have never heard such sweet descriptions as those of Rupa Goswami!

Ramananda: O Rupa! What kind of drama are you writing? We can understand that it is a mine of conclusive statements.

Swarupa: Rupa Goswami wanted to compose a drama about the pastimes of Lord Krishna. He planned to describe in one book both the pastimes of Vrindavan and those of Dwaraka and Mathura. He began it in that way, but now, following the order of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, he has divided it into two plays, one concerning Lord Krishna's pastimes of Vrindavan and the other concerning the pastimes of Mathura and Dwaraka. The two plays are called *Vidagdha-Madhava* and *Lalita-Madhava.* Both of them wonderfully describe ecstatic emotional love of God.

Ramananda: O Rupa! Please recite the introductory verse of *Vidagdha-Madhava* so that I can hear and examine it.

Rupa: "May the pastimes of Sri Krishna reduce the miseries existing in the material world and nullify all unwanted desires. The pastimes of the Supreme Personality of Godhead are like *shikharini,* a blend of yogurt and sugar candy. They overpower the pride of even the nectar produced on the moon, for they distribute the sweet fragrance of the concentrated loving affairs of Srimati Radharani and the *gopis.*"

Ramananda: Wonderful! Now please recite the description of the glories of your worshipable Deity *(ishta-deva).*

Rupa: **(he hesitates)** I, uh... I am too embarrassed because Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is present.

Chaitanya: Why are you embarrassed? You should recite it so the devotees can hear the good fruit of your writing.

Rupa: *anarpita-carim cirat karunayavatirnah kalau*
samarpayitum unnatojjvala-rasam sva-bhakti-sriyam
harih purata-sundara-dyuti-kadamba-sandipitah
sada hrdaya-kandare sphuratu vah saci-nandanah

"May the Supreme Lord, who is known as the son of Srimati Shachi-devi, be transcendentally situated in the innermost chambers of your heart. Resplendent with the radiance of molten gold, He has descended in the age of Kali by His causeless mercy to bestow what no

incarnation has ever offered before: the most sublime and radiant mellow of devotional service, the mellow of conjugal love.

Chaitanya: Oh, no! I disapprove of this verse. In My opinion, it is just an exaggerated interpretation.

Ramananda: It's wonderful! All the devotees present greatly appreciated this verse. We express our gratitude to you, Sri Rupa, for your transcendental recitation. Now how have you introduced the assembly of the players at a suitable time?

Rupa: Springtime had arrived, and the full moon of that season inspired the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is complete in everything, with new attraction to meet the beautiful Srimati Radharani at night to increase the beauty of Their pastimes.

Ramananda: Wonderful! Please recite the further introductory portion so that I may hear and examine it. Next should come the method of inducing the audience to become more and more eager to hear by praising the time and place, the hero and the audience.

Rupa: The devotees now present are constantly thinking of the Supreme Lord and are therefore highly advanced. This work named *Vidagdha-Madhava* depicts the characteristic pastimes of Lord Krishna with decorations of poetic ornaments. And the inner grounds of the forest of Vrindavan provide a suitable platform for the dancing of Krishna with the *gopis.* Therefore I think that the pious activities of persons like us, who have tried to advance in devotional service, have now attained maturity.

O learned devotees, I am by nature ignorant and low, yet even though it is from me that *Vidagdha-Madhava* has come, it is filled with descriptions of the transcendental attributes of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Therefore, will not such literature bring about the attainment of the highest goal of life? Although a fire may be ignited by a low-class man, it can nevertheless purify gold. Although I am very low by nature, this book may help cleanse the dirt from within the hearts of the golden devotees.

Ramananda: Wonderful! Please explain *purva-raga,* or the previous attachment felt by two lovers who have not yet met.

Rupa: This verse is spoken by Mukhara, Srimati Radharani's grandmother, in a conversation with Paurna-masi: Upon seeing peacock feathers in front of Her, this girl suddenly begins trembling. When She sometimes

sees a necklace of *gunja* (small red berries), She sheds tears and cries loudly. I do not know what kind of new ecstatic influence has entered the heart of this poor girl. It has imbued Her with the dancing attitude of a player creating wonderful, unprecedented dances on a stage.

Next, experiencing previous attachment to Krishna *(purva-raga),* Srimati Radharani thought: Since I have heard the name of a person called Krishna, I have practically lost My good sense. Then, there is another person who plays His flute in such a way that after I hear the vibration, intense madness arises in My heart. And again there is still another person to whom My mind becomes attached when I see His beautiful lightning-like effulgence in His picture. Therefore I think that I am greatly condemned, for I have become simultaneously attached to three persons. It would be better for Me to die because of this.

Srimati Radharani continued: My dear girlfriend, these palpitations of My heart are extremely difficult to cure. Even if one applied some medical treatment, it would only end in defamation.

O dearly beautiful Krishna, the artistic loveliness of Your picture is now impressed within My mind. Since You are now living within My mind, wherever I wish to run because I am agitated by impressions of You, I find that You, O My friend, are blocking My way.

Srimati Radharani said to Her constant companion Vishakha: My dear girlfriend, if Krishna is unkind to Me, there will be no need for you to cry, for it will not be due to any fault of yours. I shall then have to die, but afterwards please do one thing for Me: to observe My funeral ceremony, place My body with its arms embracing a *tamal* tree like creepers so that I may remain forever in Vrindavan undisturbed. That is My last request.

Ramananda: Wonderful! What are the characteristics of *bhava,* ecstatic emotional love?

Rupa: This next verse expresses the nature of ecstatic emotional love for Krishna, as spoken by Paurna-masi: My dear beautiful friend, if one develops love for Krishna, the son of Nanda Maharaja, all the bitter and sweet influences of this love will manifest in one's heart. Such love of Godhead acts in two ways: First, the poisonous effects of love of Godhead defeat the severe and fresh poison of the serpent. Yet secondly there is simultaneously transcendental bliss, which pours down and defeats the poisonous effects of a snake, as well as the happiness derived from pouring nectar on one's head. It is thus perceived as doubly effective, simultaneously poisonous and nectarean.

Ramananda: Wonderful! What are the natural characteristics of awakening

prema, love of Godhead?

Rupa: These are the natural characteristics of love of God, as spoken by Paurna-masi: "When one hears praise from his beloved, he outwardly remains neutral but feels pain within his heart. When he hears his beloved making accusations about him, he takes them to be jokes and enjoys pleasure. When he finds faults in his beloved, they do not diminish his love, nor do the beloved's good qualities increase his spontaneous affection. Thus spontaneous love continues under all circumstances. That is how spontaneous love of Godhead acts within the heart."

Having once been very cruel to Srimati Radharani, Krishna repents in this way: "Upon hearing of My cruelty, moon-faced Radharani may establish some kind of tolerance in Her aggrieved heart. But then She might turn against Me. Or, indeed, being fearful of the lusty desires invoked by the bow of formidable Cupid, She might even give up Her life. Alas! I have foolishly uprooted the soft creeper of Her desire just when it was ready to bear fruit."

Srimati Radharani speaks this next verse to Her intimate friend Vishakha-sakhi: "My dear girlfriend, desiring the happiness of Krishna's association and embraces, I disregarded even My superiors and relaxed My shyness and gravity before them. Furthermore, although you are My best friend, more dear to Me than My own life, I have given you so much trouble. Indeed, I even put aside the vow of dedication to My husband, a vow kept by the most elevated women. Oh, alas! Although Krishna is now neglecting Me, I am so sinful that I am still living. Therefore I must condemn My so-called patience."

This next verse is spoken by Srimati Radharani to Krishna: "I was engaged in My own playful activities in My home, and because of My childish innocence I did not know right from wrong. Therefore, is it good for You to have forced us into being so much attracted to You and then to have neglected us? Now You are indifferent to us. Do You think that is right?"

Radharani once said to Lalita-sakhi, another confidential girlfriend: "Our hearts are so polluted by miserable conditions that we are certainly going to Pluto's kingdom. Nevertheless, Krishna does not give up His beautiful loving smiling, which is full of cheating tricks. O Radha, You are very intelligent. How could You have developed such great loving affection for this deceitful debauchee from the neighborhood of the cowherds?"

Paurna-masi said to Lord Krishna: "O Lord Krishna, You are just like an ocean. The river of Srimati Radharani has reached You from a long distance — leaving far behind the tree of Her husband, breaking through the bridge of social convention, and forcibly crossing the hills

of elder relatives. Coming here because of fresh feelings of love for You, that river has now received Your shelter, but now You are trying to turn Her back by the waves of unfavorable words. How is it that You are spreading this attitude?

Ramananda: Wonderful! How have you described Vrindavan, the vibration of the transcendental flute, and the relationship between Krishna and Radhika? Please tell us about all these topics, for your poetic ability is magnificent.

Rupa: I offer my respectful obeisances to you, Ramananda Roy, for asking about so many transcendental topics. I will gradually try to answer all of your inquiries.

Regarding the divine forest of Vrindavan, this verse is spoken by Lord Krishna Himself: The sweet, fragrant honey oozing from newly grown mango buds is again and again attracting groups of bumblebees, and this forest is trembling in the softly moving breezes from the Malaya Hills, which are full of sandalwood trees. Thus the forest of Vrindavan is increasing My transcendental pleasure.

Lord Balarama told His boyfriend Sridama: My dear friend, see how this forest of Vrindavan is full of transcendental creepers and trees. The tops of the creepers are full of flowers, and intoxicated bumblebees are buzzing around them, humming songs that please the ear and surpass even the Vedic hymns.

Lord Krishna told His cowherd boyfriend Madhu-mangal: My dear friend, this forest of Vrindavan is giving great pleasure to our senses in various ways. Somewhere bumblebees are singing in groups, and in some places mild breezes are cooling the entire atmosphere. Somewhere the creepers and tree twigs are dancing, the jasmine flowers are expanding their fragrance, and an overabundance of juice is constantly flowing in showers from pomegranate fruits.

Ramananda: That is a wonderful description of Vrindavan! Now how have you described the vibration of Lord Krishna's transcendental flute?

Rupa: As told by Paurna-masi to Lalita-sakhi: The flute of Krishna's pastimes measures three fingers in length, and it is bedecked with sapphires. At the ends of the flute are rubies, glittering beautifully, and in between the flute is plated with gold, set ablaze by diamonds. This auspicious flute, pleasing to Krishna, is glittering in His hand with transcendental brilliance.

Srimati Radharani Herself addressed Krishna's flute thus: My dear friend the flute, it appears that you have been born of a very good

family, for your residence is in the hands of Sri Krishna. By birth you are simple and are not at all crooked. Why then have you taken initiation into this dangerous *mantra* that enchants the assembled *gopis?*

Krishna's flute was also addressed by Chandravali-sakhi, the *gopi* competitor of Srimati Radharani; "My dear friend the flute, you are actually full of many holes or faults. You are light, hard, juiceless and full of knots. By what kind of pious activities have you become engaged in the service of being kissed by the Lord and embraced by His hands?"

Madhu-mangal said: "The transcendental vibration of Krishna's flute blocked the movements of the rain clouds, struck the Gandharvas full of wonder, and agitated the meditation of great saintly persons like Sanaka and Sanandana. It created wonder in Lord Brahma, wrought intense curiosity that agitated the mind of Bali Maharaja, who was otherwise firmly fixed, made Maharaja Ananta, the carrier of the planets, whirl around, and finally it penetrated the strong coverings of the universe. Thus the sound of the flute in the hands of Krishna created a wonderful situation."

Ramananda: Wonderful! Now how have you described the transcendental beauty of Lord Sri Krishna?

Rupa: Paurna-masi said: "The beauty of Krishna's eyes surpasses the beauty of white lotus flowers, His yellow garments surpass the brilliance of fresh decorations of *kunkum* powder, His ornaments of selected forest flowers surpass the hankering for the best of garments, and His bodily beauty possesses mind-attracting splendor greater than emeralds."

Lalita-sakhi said to Radharani: "O most beautiful girlfriend, please accept the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is standing before you full of transcendental bliss. The borders of His eyes roam from side to side, and His eyebrows move slowly like bumblebees on His lotus-like face. Standing with His right foot placed below the knee of His left leg, the middle of His body curved in three places, and His neck gracefully tilted to the side, He takes His flute to His pursed lips and moves His fingers upon it here and there."

Radharani replied to Lalita-sakhi: "O beautiful-faced one, who is this creative person standing before us? With the sharp chisels of His loving glances, He is splitting the hard stones of many women's devotion to their husbands. And with the luster of His body, surpassing the brilliance of countless emeralds, He is simultaneously constructing private meeting places for His pastimes."

Lalita-sakhi further told Radharani: "My dear girlfriend, this newly youthful Lord Sri Krishna, the moon in the family of Nanda Maharaja, is

so beautiful that He defies the beauty of clusters of valuable jewels. All glories to the vibration of His flute, for it is cunningly breaking the patience of chaste ladies by loosening their belts and tight dresses.

Ramananda: Wonderful! Now how have you described the transcendental beauty of Sri Radhika?

Rupa: Paurna-masi said: The beauty of Srimati Radharani's eyes forcibly devours the beauty of newly grown blue lotus flowers, and the beauty of Her face surpasses that of an entire forest of fully blossomed lotuses. Her bodily luster seems to place even gold in a painful situation. Thus the wonderful, unprecedented beauty of Srimati Radharani is awakening in Vrindavan.

Sri Krishna told Madhu-mangal: O My friend, although the effulgence of the moon is brilliant at night, in the daytime it fades away. Similarly, although the lotus is beautiful during the daytime, at night it closes. But the face of My most dear Srimati Radharani is always bright and beautiful, both day and night. Therefore, to what can Her face be compared?

This next verse is also spoken by Lord Krishna: When Srimati Radharani smiles, waves of joy overtake Her cheeks, and Her arched eyebrows dance like the bow of Cupid. Her glance is so enchanting that it is like a dancing bumblebee, moving unsteadily due to intoxication. That bee has bitten the lotus-whorl of My heart.

Ramananda: Wonderful! Your poetic expressions are like continuous showers of nectar! Kindly let us hear the introductory portion of the second drama, *Lalita-Madhava.*

Rupa: In your presence, which is just like brilliant sunshine, I am as insignificant as the light of a glow-worm. It is impudent for me to even open my mouth before you. Anyway, as you insist, here is the introductory verse of *Lalita-Madhava:*

The beautiful moon-like glories of Mukunda give distress to the lotus-like faces of the wives of the demons and also to their raised breasts, which are like gleaming *chakravaka* birds. Those glories, however, are pleasing to all His devotees, who are like *chakora* birds. May those glories forever give pleasure to you all.

Ramananda: Well? Well? What about the second introductory verse?

Rupa: I am hesitant to recite any more. I've already spoken way too much.

Ramananda: Oh, please go on reading! All of us are just bathing in these

showers of pure nectar!

Rupa: "The moon-like Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is known as the son of mother Shachi, has now appeared on earth to spread devotional love of Himself. He is the emperor of the *brahmana* community. He can drive away all the darkness of ignorance and control the mind of everyone in the world. May that rising moon bestow good fortune upon all of us."

Chaitanya: (appears inwardly pleased when He hears this verse, but externally speaks as if angry) Your exalted poetic descriptions of the mellows of Lord Krishna's pastimes are like an ocean of nectar. But why have you put in a false prayer about Me? It is like a drop of detestable alkali!

Ramananda: (objects) It is not alkali at all. It is a particle of camphor that he has put into the nectar of his exalted poetic expression.

Chaitanya: My dear Ramananda Roy, you are jubilant at hearing these poetic expressions, but I am ashamed to hear them, for people in general will joke about the subject of this verse.

Ramananda: Instead of joking, people in general will feel great pleasure in hearing such poetry, for the initial remembrance of the worshipable Deity invokes good fortune. **(then inquires from Rupa Goswami)** By which subdivision of style do the players enter?

Rupa: You are so expert in dramatic expression that each of my statements before you is like a wave from an ocean of impudence! Nevertheless, since you inquired, here is your answer: "While dancing on the stage after having killed the ruler of uncivilized men (Kamsa), Lord Krishna, master of all arts, will at the proper time accept the hand of Srimati Radharani, who is qualified with all transcendental attributes."

Ramananda: Please speak further about various portions of the play.

Rupa: I will briefly quote a few verses from my *Lalita-Madhava.* Once Paurnamasi spoke in a conversation with Gargi, the daughter of Garga Muni: "The dust from cows and calves on the road creates a kind of darkness indicating that Krishna is returning home from the pasture. Also, the darkness of evening provokes the *gopis* to meet Krishna. Thus the pastimes of Krishna and the *gopis* are covered by a kind of transcendental darkness and are therefore impossible for ordinary

scholars of the Vedas to see.

Gargi replied: May the sweet sound of Lord Krishna's flute, which is His authorized messenger, be glorified, for it expertly releases Srimati Radharani from Her shyness and attracts Her from Her home to the forest.

Srimati Radharani asked Lalita-sakhi: My dear girlfriend, who is this fearless young man? He is as bright as a lightning cloud, and He wanders in His pastimes like a maddened elephant. From where has He come to Vrindavan? Alas, by His restless movements and attractive glances He is plundering from the vault of My heart the treasure of My patience.

This next verse expresses the thoughts of Lord Krishna in relation with Radharani: Srimati Radharani is the Ganges river in which the elephant of My mind enjoys pastimes. She is the shining of the full autumn moon for the *chakora* birds of My eyes. She is the dazzling ornament, the bright and beautiful arrangement of stars on the border of the sky of My chest. Now today I have gained Srimati Radharani because of the highly elevated state of My mind.

Ramananda: Wonderful! O Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu! After hearing this, I submit unto Your lotus feet the superexcellence of Srila Rupa Goswami's poetic expression! If only I had thousands of mouths, I may be able to praise it! This is not a poetic presentation; it is a continuous shower of nectar. Indeed, it is the essence of all ultimate realizations, appearing in the form of plays. The wonderful descriptions of Rupa Goswami are superb arrangements to express loving affairs. Hearing them will plunge the heart and ears of everyone into a whirlpool of transcendental bliss. Without Your mercy, such poetic expressions would be impossible for an ordinary living being to write. My guess is that You have given him the power.

Chaitanya: I met Srila Rupa Goswami at Prayaga. He attracted and satisfied Me because of his qualities. To those who are constantly devoted and worship Me with love, I give the understanding by which they can come to Me. I bestowed My special favor upon Srila Rupa Goswami because Rupa Goswami wanted to serve Me to the best of his ability. The metaphors and other literary ornaments of Srila Rupa Goswami's transcendental poetry are absolutely sublime! Without such poetic attributes, there is no possibility of preaching transcendental mellows. **(to devotees)** All of you please bless Rupa Goswami so that he might continuously describe the pastimes of Vrindavan in his books, which are full of ecstatic emotional love of Godhead.

O Ramananda Roy! Srila Rupa Goswami's elder brother named Sanatana Goswami is such a wise and learned scholar that no one is equal to him. Sanatana Goswami's renunciation of material connections is just like yours. Humility, renunciation and excellent learning exist in him simultaneously. I empowered both of these brothers to go to Vrindavan to expand the literature of *bhakti.*

Ramananda: My Lord, You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead. If You like, You can cause even a wooden doll to dance. I see that the truths regarding transcendental mellow that You had previously expounded through my mouth are all explained in the writings of Srila Rupa Goswami. Because of Your causeless mercy toward Your devotees, You want to describe the transcendental pastimes in Vrindavan. Anyone empowered to do this can bring the entire world under Your influence.

Narrator: Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu then embraced Rupa Goswami and asked him to offer prayers at the lotus feet of all the devotees present. **(they act it out)** Advaita Acharya, Nityananda Prabhu and all the other devotees showed their causeless mercy to Rupa Goswami by embracing him in return. Seeing Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's special mercy toward Srila Rupa Goswami and seeing his personal qualities, all the devotees were struck with wonder. Then, when Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu left with all of His devotees, Haridas Thakura also embraced Srila Rupa Goswami.

Haridas: There is no limit to your good fortune! No one can understand the glories of what you have described.

Rupa: I do not know anything. The only transcendental words I can utter are those which Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu makes me speak. Although I am the lowest of men and have no knowledge, the Lord has mercifully bestowed upon me the inspiration to write transcendental literature about devotional service. Therefore I offer my obeisances at the lotus feet of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who has given me the chance to write these books.

Narrator: The poet or writer dealing with transcendental subject matters is not an ordinary writer or translator. Because he is empowered by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, whatever he writes becomes very effective. The principle of being empowered by the Supreme Personality of Godhead is essential. A materialistic poet who describes in his poetry the material activities of man and woman cannot describe the transcendental pastimes of the Lord or the

transcendental conclusions of devotional service. Unless one is a fully unalloyed devotee of the Lord, one should not try to describe the pastimes of Krishna in poetry, for it will be only mundane.

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu then bade farewell to Rupa Goswami. The Lord empowered him and bestowed upon him all kinds of mercy.

Chaitanya: Now go to Vrindavan and stay there. You may send here your elder brother, Sanatana. When you go to Vrindavan, stay there, preach transcendental literature and excavate the lost holy places. Establish the service of Lord Krishna and preach the mellows of Lord Krishna's devotional service. I shall also go to Vrindavan once more.

Narrator: Having thus spoken, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu embraced Rupa Goswami, who then placed the lotus feet of the Lord upon his head. Srila Rupa Goswami took leave of all the devotees of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and returned to Vrindavan by the path to Bengal. **(all exit)** Thus I have described the second meeting of Rupa Goswami and Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Anyone who hears of this incident will certainly attain the shelter of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

Devotees acknowledge Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's special mercy upon Srila Rupa Goswami in the following words:

sri-caitanya-mano 'bhistam-sthapitam yena bhu-tale
svayam rupah kada mahyam dadati sva-padantikam

"When will Srila Rupa Goswami Prabhupada, who has established within this material world the mission to fulfill the desire of Lord Chaitanya, give me shelter under his lotus feet?"

The special function of Srila Rupa Goswami is to establish the feelings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. These feelings are His desires that His special mercy be spread throughout the world in this Kali-yuga.

prthivite ache yata nagaradi-grama
sarvatra pracara haibe mora nama

His desire is that all over the world everyone, in every village and every town, know of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and His *sankirtan* movement. These are the inner feelings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Sri Rupa Goswami committed to writing all these feelings of the Lord. Now again, by the mercy of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the same feelings are being spread all over the world by the servants of the Goswamis, and devotees who are pure and simple will appreciate this

attempt. *Hare Krishna!*

The End

Sanatan Goswami and the Touchstone 1

(A man sits in meditation. He expresses joy when Lord Siva enters.)

Man: Jai! All Glories to you, Lord Siva! Please accept my respectful obeisances. (He offers dandavats.)

Siva: My devotee, you have pleased me by your austerities and humble prayers. I must give you some benediction. What is it that you need?

Man: My dear Lord Siva, I am a very poor man, with no hope for bettering myself. It is very difficult for me to live happily because I do not earn much money. Thus I have always been desirous of the wealth possessed by others and this greed gives me great pain. Therefore, I want to have everything that I have ever wanted and everything that I could possibly want in the future. And I want everything to be of the highest quality and made of gold! To get so much gold, I need a touchstone! This rare, magical stone has the ability to turn anything it touches into solid GOLD! Please give me this touchstone, Lord.

Siva: That is a small desire. Go to Vrndavan and there you will find a devotee named Sanatan Goswami. He is the most respected and learned scholar in Vrndava and the chief of the Vaisnava community. He is certainly capable of giving one the highest benediction. He has a touchstone and if you ask for it, in my name, he will give it to you. However, I do not feel it will make you truly happy. Simply go there and ask him for the most valuable thing.
Man: Thank you, Lord Siva.

(Music. Brahman offers obeisances and leaves. Lord Siva exits. Set up the ashram of Sanatan Goswami - Tulasi plant, small heap of trash such as rags and paper, etc. Sanatan Goswami and another Devotee enter. Sanatan Goswami sits down and reads and writes. The Devotee offers obeisances and leaves. As he crosses the stage he meets the worshipper of Lord Siva.)

SCENE TWO SCENE TWO SCENE TWO

Man: Oh how wonderful! I'll go to Vrndavan today! I'll have so much GOLD! GOLD! And it's mine! All mine!

Devotee: Jai Radhe! Hare Krsna!

Man:Excuse me, Sadhuji, I have come a long distance. I must find the office of Sanatan Goswami! Have you heard of him?

Devotee: Yes sir, indeed! Everyone in Vrndavan loves and respects Sanatan

Goswami, but he doesn't have an office! He is a wandering mendicant and Lord Krsna is his only shelter. Every night he simply takes rest under any tree in the Vrndavan forest, as do his associates, known as the Six Goswamis.

Man: Under any tree? Is he not wealthy beyond compare?

Devotee: Yes, that he is, for he possesses Krsna by the purity and strength of his devotion. Sanatan Goswami freely distributes love of Krsna, through his books, his words and his personal example.

Man: Well, I don't want any of that! He has something else I want. But, how may I find him? There must be thousands of trees in this forest! Tens of thousands!

Devotee: You're in luck! I have just come from his presence. He's straight ahead and over by the river.

Man: Oh, thank you!
(He runs off and soon comes upon Sanatan Goswami.)

Sanatan: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Man: My dear sir, are you Sanatan Goswami?

Sanatan: Yes, I am Sanatan Goswami.

Man: Lord Siva has instructed that I should ask you for the greatest benediction that will make me happy throughout my whole life. I am a very poor Brahman and so I have prayed to Lord Siva for gold and material success. He has sent me to you to ask for the touchstone that you keep, in his name.

Sanatan: A touchstone? Oh yes, I was given one, a long time ago, but I never had a need for it. Krsna has given me everything I could ever want! I left it in the garbage heap by the river. (He points.) You can just go there and take it.

Man:(enthusiastic) Yes! Oh, yes! It will turn everything into gold! Yes! Yes! Yes!
(Brahman immediately dives upon garbage and hold up a fist-sized stone.)

Man: Is this it?

Sanatan: Yes, I think so. Test it.
(Man goes into audience and gets someone to give him something to turn into gold - a key, a coin, etc. and turns it into gold. Man is ecstatic and gets audience enthusiastic for gold, too. In between he babbles about gold.)

Man: It's gold!!! It's gold, isn't it? Do you see it? Who wants something turned to gold? How about you, sir? Do you want your watched turned to gold? No problem. There you go! Okay just a few more, then I have to go!

Inconceivable wealth will be mine! I can buy everything that there is to buy! I can buy the world! And everything that I own will be made of GOLD! It will last forever! SHINY, HARD, HEAVY, BEAUTIFUL GOLD! I'll wear golden rings and golden bracelets, golden armlets and golden anklets, too! I'll even wear golden shoes! I'll live in a golden house! All my friends will live in golden houses, too!

The beggars will line the roadway to my house to beg a gold coin from me to feed their wretched children. Just to show I'm a good man, I'll hire a man to distribute gold coins to the poor on special days! Oh No! If I let the beggars come around my gold house, then they will walk off with my golden bricks and my golden fence posts!! I'd better hire twenty men to guard my home from thieves!!! The thought of thieves make me so angry!!! How will I be able to sleep on my golden bed knowing that thieves are plotting to steal my touchstone!

(Devotee is standing to the side of the room looking on with great interest.)

Devotee: Hey, what are you doing?

Man: I'm turning everything into gold!!

Devotee: How are you doing that?

Man: I worshipped Lord Siva and he sent me to Sanatan Goswami to get my desire for wealth fulfilled and he gave me a touchstone which turns everything into gold! I'm RICH!! Ha ha!!

Devotee: I didn't know that he had a touchstone. Where did he keep it?

Man: He was keeping it in the garbage heap and he said I could have it.

Devotee: He was keeping it in the garbage?

Man: Yes.

Devotee: Don't you think that's a bit odd?

Man: Yes (realizes) Oh ... you mean, if it's such a valuable thing, why is he keeping it in the garbage? He must have something even more valuable. I'm going to go see that Sanatan Goswami again!
(He proceeds with great determination to Sanatan Goswami's ashram. He offers obeisances.)

Man: Excuse me, Your Holiness, but I don't think that you have given me the most valuable thing that you possess.

Sanatan: Have you tried the touchstone?

Man: Yes, I have.

Sanatan: And it is working nicely?

Man: Yes.

Sanatan: Then?

Man: This touchstone is a very nice thing and the gold that it produces is very valuable but Lord Siva has revealed to me that you are capable of giving me the greatest benediction. I do not think that this stone is the most valuable benediction or else why would you keep it in the garbage?

Sanatan: You want that greatest benediction?

Man: Yes, I do.

Sanatan: I have the most valuable thing in the whole world and I would be happy to give it to you. But first you must throw this stone into the river.

Man: Well, if you say so.
(Brahman hesitates but then throws stone away.)

Sanatan: Sit down here with me. I will instruct you in the chanting of the great Maha Mantra, now. Maha means great, so this is the Great Chanting for Deliverance. Everyone is suffering in this world from lust, anger and greed we have unlimited hankerings and disappointments.

Man: Yes, I have felt these things!

Sanatan: We get sick, we get old and we die and take birth again due to our ignorance of the Path of Liberation but this mantra can purify the sinful desires in our hearts and reveal the Supreme Personality of Godhead to us. Developing our relationship with Krsna and getting out of the cycle of birth and death is the most valuable knowledge. Before you could not

accept it because you had material desires. To serve Krsna you must desire only His pleasure. Krsna is not different from his name and Krsna has declared that this chanting is the process in this age by which one may come to Krsna. Thus, the greatest benediction is freedom from the cycle of birth and death and elevation to the abode of Krsna. Say after me HARE

Man: Hare

Sanatan: KRSNA

Man: Krsna

Sanatan: HARE KRSNA

Man: Hare Krsna

Sanatan: KRSNA KRSNA

Man: Krsna Krsna!

Sanatan: HARE HARE

Man: Hare Hare

Sanatan: HARE RAMA

Man: Hare Rama

Sanatan: HARE RAMA

Man: Hare Rama

Sanatan: RAMA RAMA

Man: Rama Rama!

Sanatan: HARE HARE

Man: Hare Hare!!

Sanatan: Now, go and always chant and teach others.

Man: Thank you, Gurudev.

(Music, lights)

Sanatan Goswami and the Touchstone 3

Narrator: We present, for your transcendental entertainment, this Sixteenth century Bengal classic - a tale that has entertained Vaisnava audiences for over 500 years. It is the story of a young man's search for the greatest treasure. Our story begins when, in the province of Manipura, the king offered the hand of his beautiful daughter to anyone who can bring him a gift of unequalled opulence. The hero of our drama, although a man of little means, finds himself uncannily put into circumstances which send him on a perilous trek to search for the treasure. Ladies and gentlemen, we present for your enjoyment tonight - Sanatan Goswami and the Touchstone!

Sweeper: Hey, you oughta look where you're going, young man!

1st Suitor: I'm sorry, I'm looking for the King's palace.

Sweeper: Then you must be one of those suitors seeking the hand of the Princess!

1st Suitor: Have there been many suitors before me?

Sweeper: Many! Seems like every rich man in the country is thinking his gift to be the most valuable!

1st Suitor: Well, wait till the king sees mine!

Sweeper: Ha! That's what they all say!

1st Suitor: Do you know where the entrance to the King's palace is or not?

Sweeper: Yes, take the road to the right.

1st Suitor: Thank you, I hope all the citizens are as courteous as you have been.

Sweeper: Anytime!
(1st Suitor leaves. There is a big commotion and 2nd Suitor runs on. Stopping to speak to the Streetsweeper.)

Voice: Get that tramp outta here! Out, I said. Get outta here!

2nd Suitor: Oh! Oh! I'll never get to marry the princess at this rate! Every time I try to go and see her, they throw me out and dump garbage on me!

Sweeper: Don't tell me you're making plans to marry the princess, a poor wretch like you!

2nd Suitor: Well, maybe you have forgotten what it's like to be in love. If only I were rich, too, then they would all bow their heads as I walked by!

Sweeper: It takes more than wealth to get the people's respect. But, if you want to get in to see this princess you will need something valuable, like everyone else is bringing. Maybe, I should tell you about this old woman that I know ...

2nd Suitor: If you know of some way to help me, then please tell me. I'll do anything!

Sweeper: Not so fast, first of all let me ask you - how brave are you?

2nd Suitor: I'm as brave as any man, I suppose. Why?

Sweeper: If you are brave enough to enter the forest of death where the sacred serpent secretly stalks it's prey ...

2nd Suitor: I'm not afraid of any forest or any creature in it!

Sweeper: Well, you go there, you cross the swinging bridge made of human skulls and on the other side you'll find an old woman, kinda like a witch you might say. Maybe she could help you attain something valuable, maybe even the most valuable thing. She has a lot of rare antiques and she's been known to do conjure spells, too.

2nd Suitor: I'll leave immediately, I'll find the most valuable thing and I'll marry the princess!

Sweeper: Not so fast, many travelers have gone into that forest, never to return.

2nd Suitor: I'm not afraid. I'll do anything to marry the princess! Anything! She's so beautiful! Thank you, old man! (leaves on journey)

Sweeper: Anytime! (He leaves.)

SCENE TWO - The Forest of Death

(Weird eerie sound effects. Jungle sounds. Dim lights. Soon the witch appears.)

Witch: Who are you? What are you doing in my forest?

2nd Suitor: (startled, afraid) I ... I'm Kumar, and I uh, came to find the most valuable thing. In town the ... the street sweeper... he told me where to find you. He said that you might be able to give me something valuable to give to the King to please him so that I can marry his daughter, Princess Lila.

Witch: You look like a beggar to me! What makes you think that the Princess would want to marry you?

2nd Suitor: Well, I thought that if I had ... something of great value ...

Witch: Ohhh! I think I have what you are looking for! This potion will make you as strong as the biggest ox! For ten days, you will be able to defeat any one who opposes you! You'll become famous!

2nd Suitor: And after 10 days?

Witch: You'll become fat and bald but everyone will be afraid of you for a long time.

2nd Suitor: I don't think you understand exactly!

Witch: Well then ... this one, made of goats entrails and pigeon's eyes will make you so beautiful that no one will be able to resist you. Only trouble with this one is you have to keep taking it. I'll give you the recipe, too. Haha!

2nd Suitor: But ... but what I'm looking for is something that will give me more wealth, more gold than the King has so that he'll be impressed by me and give me his daughter. Then I'll need gold to maintain her and build a palace of my own and ...

Witch: Oh, all you want is gold! Why didn't you say so! What you need is a Touchstone, but I'm out of them. With a touchstone you can turn everything into pure, solid gold just by touching it!

2nd Suitor: Gold! Who has it? Where can I find him? What do I have to do to get it?

Witch: You seem determined. What did you say your name was?

2nd Suitor: Kumar, ma'am.

Witch: Are you willing to perform some penance, young man?

2nd Suitor: Penance!?

Witch: Of course, you didn't expect to get something for nothin' did you?

2nd Suitor: I'll do anything for the princess! Anything!

Witch: Alright, you fool, since you have risked your life in pursuit of love's illusory promise, I'll tell you this secret. Follow this road until you come to the mountains, make yourself ready for austerity by eating only leaves and drinking only the water that falls from the sky and then, in a Holy Place, worship Lord Siva. Chant this mantra very sincerely "OM NAMO SIVAYAH!" Lord Siva will be able to help you.

2nd Suitor: Thank you! Oh, thank you!
(Witch leaves, he walks about in hurried circles. He talks about gold.)

Inconceivable wealth will be mine! I can buy everything that there is to buy! I can buy the world! And everything that I own will be made of GOLD! It will last forever! SHINY, HARD, HEAVY, BEAUTIFUL GOLD! I'll wear golden rings and golden bracelets, golden armlets and golden anklets, too! I'll even wear golden shoes! I'll live in a golden house! All my friends will live in golden houses, too!

The beggars will line the roadway to my house to beg a gold coin from me to feed their wretched children. Just to show I'm a good man, I'll hire a man to distribute gold coins to the poor on special days! Oh No! If I let the beggars come around my gold house, then they will walk off with my golden bricks and my golden fence posts!! I'd better hire twenty men to guard my home from thieves!!! The thought of thieves make me so angry!!! How will I be able to sleep on my golden bed knowing that thieves are plotting to steal my touchstone!

SCENE THREE The Mountain Top

2nd Suitor: Om Namo Sivayah! Om Namo Sivayah! OM NAMO SIVAYAH!
(Lord Siva enters or appears.)

Siva: You called out my name, therefore, I am indebted to you. Do you want a benediction?

2nd Suitor: I've come looking for the greatest gift. Can you help me find it?

Siva: Oh, the greatest gift! That is very good because I know who has the greatest gift!

2nd Suitor: Who?

Siva: There is a great devotee of Lord Krsna who lives in Vrndavan. His name is Sanatan Goswami. Why don't you go there and seek him out? He can give you the greatest gift without a doubt! Vrndavan is this way.

2nd Suitor: Does he have a Touchstone?

Siva: I believe he does. If you ask him for the touchstone, in my name, he will give it to you.

SCENE FOUR Vrndavan Forest
(forest and peacock sound effects)

2nd Suitor: Thank you! Oh, thank you!
(He leaves hurriedly. Lord Siva leaves.)

2nd Suitor:Gold! Anything I touch be SOLID GOLD! (calls out)
Sanatan Goswami! Sanatan Goswami! This is a beautiful forest! There are so many peacocks! Sanatan Goswami! Sanatan Goswami!

Sanatan: I'm over here. My name is Sanatan Goswami. What can I do for you?

2nd Suitor: Sir, I've come looking for the most valuable gift, can you help me find it?

Sanatan: Yes, my spiritual master, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, gave it to me and told me to distribute it freely to everyone.

2nd Suitor: Really!?

Sanatan: Yes, anyone, in any walk of life, can take this most precious gift and they will remain happy for the rest of their days.

2nd Suitor: But if many people have a lot of gold then it won't be as valuable. I need to have more gold than anyone in the world if I'm going to impress the King and marry the princess.

Sanatan: Wait a minute. You mean to tell me that all you want to do is marry a princess? Why come to me? I am a renunciate. I have nothing to do with women or wealth. I have only a few books and utensils.

2nd Suitor: I know that you have a Touchstone. Lord Siva told me that if I asked for it in his name, then you would give it to me.

Sanatan: Yes, someone gave me a Touchstone but I have no need for it as I have everything I want. It is over there in the garbage. You may take it, but I don’t feel it will make you truly happy.

2nd Suitor: Thank you, Sadhuji!
(He dives on the garbage pile and finds a stone.) Is this it?

Sanatan: I think so, test it.

Sweeper: (touches something) It's Gold! Oh, thank you, Sanatan Goswami, thank you!!
(He runs off)

SCENE FIVE Outside the Royal Palace

Sweeper: So, Kumar married the princess, took over her father's kingdom and had all the gold you could possibly imagine. But, I ask you, did this make him happy? I don't think so. All I hear coming from the palace is this:

Voice: Oooh! I hate you! You're a lazy bum! And look at this house! I am sick of gold! We never go anywhere because you're afraid someone will steal your stupid stone! (crash! Crash!)

2nd Suitor: (runs on stage avoiding thrown shoes, etc.) That woman is driving me crazy! I never get a moment of peace! Nothing ever satisfies her!

Sweeper: Hello, Kumar. Remember me?

2nd Suitor: Of course I do. You're the street sweeper who told me about the witch. How are you?

Sweeper: I was just about to ask you the same thing. You don't look well. I remember when I saw you a year ago, you looked a lot happier. You were looking for the most valuable thing, did you find it?

2nd Suitor: Of course I did, I keep it with me all the time. It’s called a touchstone and everything I touch turns into gold. Would you like me to turn your broom into gold?

Sweeper: I can't have that. It would be too heavy to use and someone would steal it before I could sell it. How about you, did it make you happy?

2nd Suitor: Well, in some ways, you know. You have to look at the broad picture.

Sweeper: No, don't beat around the bush! Did it make you happy or not?

2nd Suitor: Well, at first it did, but now, well, I have everything I could possibly buy and it gets really boring, you know? I'm not happy.

Sweeper: Where did you get this magic stone?

2nd Suitor: A great devotee of Krsna in Vrndavan gave it to me.

Sweeper: He just gave it to you? Did he say that it would make you happy?

2nd Suitor: No, in fact he said that he didn't feel that it would not make me truly happy but if I wanted it then I could have it.

Sweeper: Was he fabulously wealthy?

2nd Suitor: No, he said that all he had was a few books and utensils but that he had everything he wanted. In fact, he was keeping the touchstone in his garbage heap.

Sweeper: You're kidding!?

2nd Suitor: No seriously. He was living in the forest alone and he kept the touchstone in the garbage heap.

Sweeper: I've been a garbage man for a long time (street sweeper/garbage man/no difference) and I have never known anyone to keep their valuables in with the garbage because, sooner or later, someone's going to come along and clean it up. Now, you must be mistaken.

2nd Suitor: Wait!! You're right! This wasn't the most valuable gift that he could give me!! He started to tell me about something else but, when he realized that all I wanted was wealth, he stopped talking about it. I'm going back to Vrndavan right now! Thank you, street sweeper, thank you!

(Street sweeper and Kumar leave in opposite directions.)

SCENE FOUR Vrndavan Forest
(peacock sounds, forest sounds)

2nd Suitor: (runs in, calling) Sanatan Goswami! Sanatan Goswami!

Sanatan: I am still here.

2nd Suitor: O great Saint, please help me. I need the most valuable gift that you have.

Sanatan: I gave you a touchstone. Did it make you happy?

2nd Suitor: Well at first it did, but now I'm miserable.

Sanatan: That is the nature of the material world.

2nd Suitor: I feel like there is something more that you can give me ... something of even greater value!

Sanatan: There is, but, before I give it to you, you must throw the touchstone in the river.

2nd Suitor: Well ... I'm not sure ...

Sanatan: It did not bring you any happiness, what good is it to you? Gold or any other matter is separate from you. You are a spirit soul. When this life is finished, you cannot take gold with you to your next life.

(Kumar throws the rock in the river and offers obeisances.)

2nd Suitor: Please tell me, what is the most valuable gift?

Sanatan: Now you are ready. People who are too attached to women and wealth are not interested in higher principles of life. To become free from the anxieties of the material world, one has to become attached to Krsna. You have to develop a bond between yourself and Krsna and strengthen that bond by devotional service to Krsna. The recommended means to develop

Love of Krsna in this age is simply to chant His Holy Names. Chant and be happy, my Spiritual Master always says. Sit close to me. I will instruct you.

2nd Suitor: Thank you, Gurudev.

The End.

SCENE ONE

(Lord Siva is seated on one side of the temple. A Seeker, his devotee enters and offers obeisances.)

Seeker: My dear Lord Siva, I am seeking your benediction,

Siva: You have worshipped me very nicely and I am satisfied. What would you like?

Seeker: My dear Lord Siva, I am a very poor man. It is very difficult for me to live happily because I do not earn much money. Please give me great wealth so I can fulfill all of my desire.

Siva: That is easy enough. Go to Vrndavan and there you will find a devotee named Sanatan Goswami. He is able to give you the greatest benediction and, receiving this, you will always be satisfied. Simply go there and ask him for the most valuable thing, in my name.

Seeker: Thank you, Lord Siva.
(Music. Brahman offers obeisances and leaves. Lord Siva exits. Set up the ashram of Sanatan Goswami - Tulasi plant, small heap of trash such as rags and paper, etc. Sanatan Goswami sits down and reads and writes. The Seeker enters and offers obeisances.)

SCENE TWO

Seeker: My dear sir, are you Sanatan Goswami?

Sanatan: Yes, I am Sanatan Goswami.

Seeker: Lord Siva has instructed that I should ask you for the greatest benediction that will make me happy throughout my whole life. I am a very poor Brahman and so I have prayed to Lord Siva for gold and material success. He has sent me to you to ask for the "most valuable thing."

Sanatan:He must mean the touchstone. Would you like a touchstone?

Seeker: (enthusiastic) Oh, yes! (pause) Uh, what's a touchstone?

Sanatan:A touchstone is a stone which, when touched to a piece of metal, transforms that metal into gold.

Seeker: It will turn everything into gold?!! Yes! Yes! Yes!

Sanatan:You see that garbage over there? That is where the touchstone is lying. You may take it.
(Brahman immediately dives upon garbage and hold up a fist-sized stone.)

Seeker: Is this it?

Siva: Yes, I think so. Test it.
(Brahman goes into audience and gets someone to give him something made of metal - a key, a coin, etc. and turns it into gold. Brahman is ecstatic and gets audience enthusiastic for gold, too.)

Seeker: It's gold!!! It's gold, isn't it? Do you see it? Who wants something turned to gold? How about you, sir? Do you want your watched turned to gold? No problem. There you go! Okay

just a few more, then I have to go!
(A man is standing to the side of the room looking on with great interest.)

Man: Hey, what are you doing?

Seeker: I'm turning everything into gold!!

Man: How are you doing that?

Seeker: I worshipped Lord Siva and he sent me to Sanatan Goswami to get my desire for wealth
fulfilled. I asked him for the most valuable thing and he gave me a touchstone which turns everything into gold! I'm RICH!! Ha ha!!

Man: Do you think he'd have another one?

Seeker: No, he just had this one. He was keeping it in the garbage heap and he said I could have it.

Man: He was keeping it in the garbage?

Seeker: Yes.

Man: And it is "the most valuable thing?"

Seeker: Yes (realizes) Oh ... you mean, if it's such a valuable thing, why is he keeping it in the garbage? He must have something even more valuable. I'm going to go see that Sanatan Goswami again!
(He proceeds with great determination to Sanatan Goswami's ashram. He offers obeisances.)

Seeker: Excuse me, Your Holiness, but I don't think that you have given me the most valuable thing that you possess.

Sanatan: Have you tried the touchstone?

Seeker: Yes, I have.

Sanatan: And it is working nicely?

Seeker: Yes.

Sanatan:Then?

Seeker: This touchstone is a very nice thing and the gold that it produces is very valuable but Lord Siva has revealed to me that you are capable of giving me the greatest benediction. I do not think that this stone is the most valuable benediction or else why would you keep it in the garbage?

Sanatan: You want that greatest benediction?

Seeker: Yes, I do.

Sanatan: I have the most valuable thing in the whole world and I would be happy to give it to you.
But first you must throw this stone into the river.

Seeker: Well, if you say so.

(Brahman hesitates but then throws stone away.)

Sanatan:Sit down here with me. I will instruct you in the chanting of the great Maha Mantra, now. Maha means great, so this is the Great Chanting for Deliverance. Everyone is suffering in this world from lust, anger and greed we have unlimited hankering and disappointments.

Seeker: Yes, I have felt these things!

Sanatan:We get sick, we get old and we die and take birth again due to our ignorance of the Path of Liberation but this mantra can purify the sinful desires in our hearts and reveal the Supreme Personality of Godhead to us. Developing our relationship with Krsna and getting out of the cycle of birth and death is the most valuable knowledge. Before you could not accept it because you had material desires. To serve Krsna you must desire only His pleasure. Krsna is not different from his name and Krsna has declared that this chanting is the process in this age by which one may come to Krsna. Thus, the greatest benediction is freedom from the cycle of birth and death and elevation to the abode of Krsna. Say after me HARE ...

Seeker: Hare

Sanatan: KRSNA

Seeker: Krsna

Sanatan: HARE KRSNA

Seeker: Hare Krsna

Sanatan: KRSNA KRSNA

Seeker: Krsna Krsna!

Sanatan:HARE HARE

Seeker: Hare Hare

Sanatan: HARE RAMA

Seeker: Hare Rama

Sanatan:HARE RAMA

Seeker: Hare Rama

Sanatan :RAMA RAMA

Seeker: Rama Rama!

Sanatan:HARE HARE

Seeker: Hare Hare!!

Sanatan:Now, go and always chant and teach others.

Seeker: Thank you, Gurudev.
(Music, lights)

SANATANA GOSWAMI AND THE PROCESS OF DEVOTION

from *Sri Chaitanya-Charitamrita, Madhya-lila* Chapters 19 & 20

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CAST: Sanatana Goswami, Hussain Shah, Brahmana, Ishana, Lord Chaitanya, Sri Kanta, Chandrashekhara, Jailer, Guard, Innkeeper, Palmist, Washerwoman.

Narrator: Let us offer our respectful obeisances unto Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu who possesses unlimited, wonderful opulences. By His mercy, even a person born as the lowest of men can spread the science of devotional service. All glories to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu! All glories to Prabhu Nityananda! All glories to all the devotees of the Lord!

Srila Sanatana Goswami, the elder brother of Srila Rupa Goswami, was a most important minister in the government of Hussain Shah, the ruler of Bengal, and was considered a great scholar. Sanatana possessed all the opulences of a royal position, but he gave up everything just to accept the youthful goddess of renunciation. He is the object of pleasure for the devotees who know the science of devotional service. Please hear with faith and love this pastime of Lord Chaitanya's mercy upon Sanatana Goswami. When one hears these topics, one's heart will be cleansed of all contamination.

SCENE ONE

Sanatana's home

Sanatana: My dear *brahmana,* you are so kind to come to my home today. Please, for my benefit, speak on *Srimad-Bhagavatam*.

Brahmana: *nasta-prayesv abhadresu nityam bhagavata sevaya / bhagavaty uttama-sloke bhaktir bhavati naisthiki*

"By regularly hearing the *Bhagavatam* and by rendering service to the pure devotee, all that is troublesome to the heart is practically destroyed, and loving service unto the Personality of Godhead, who is praised with transcendental songs, is established as an irrevocable fact."

So, one interested in spiritual life must not only approach the book *Bhagavata,* but he must also approach the person *Bhagavata.*

One who has never received the dust of the feet of a pure devotee upon his head is certainly a dead body.

Sanatana: Lord Chaitanya said that a person who comes in contact with a bona fide spiritual master is very fortunate.

Brahmana: Yes, one who is serious about spiritual life is given the intelligence to approach a spiritual master, by the grace of Krishna. And by the grace of the spiritual master, one becomes advanced in Krishna Consciousness.

Ishana: Hussain Shah, the Nawab of Bengal, is here to see you.

Hussain: O my most brilliant gem, how have you been keeping yourself?

Sanatana: Please sit down and accept some fruit.

Hussain: Yesterday, I sent my doctor to see you, and he reported to me that you are not ill. As far as he could see, you are completely healthy. So, when will you return to your office at the royal court?

Sanatana: I'm not returning at all.

Hussain: Just see how he jokes with me to give pain to my heart! I am depending on you to carry out so many of my activities, but you have given up your governmental duty to sit at home all day. Come now what is your intention? Please tell me frankly.

Sanatana: You can no longer expect any service from me. Please arrange for someone else to tend to the management.

Hussain: My brother, I am always busy attacking other states and fighting everywhere. It gives me great pleasure to bring back riches to fill my coffers. And while I am engaged in this business, you, my brother, should look after the state management! If you do not, how will things continue?

Sanatana: You are the supreme ruler of Bengal and are completely independent. If you think that I'm at fault, then you must act accordingly.

Hussain: Enough! Guard! Guard, arrest him! Even though you are of Hindu birth, your logic, your boldness and your wit captured my heart and I knew, upon our first meeting, that your talents were meant for a higher purpose. So, I took you into my court and accepted you as my younger brother! But now, on the pretext of bad health, you have avoided your service. Instead, you have fallen in with these

readers of fables, these parasites of your society, who go by the name of *brahmanas!* Whatever advancement you have made at my royal court, you are casting aside without a second thought! Like a man possessed, you are accepting day as night and night as day! How it pains me to see you in this abominable condition! Take him away! **(exits)**

SCENE TWO

Jail cell

Ishana: Sanatana...

Sanatana: Ishana, what are you doing here?

Ishana: I have a letter from your brother, Rupa. He has also left this for you. **(gives him letter and 2 sacks of coins)** I must go now.

Sanatana: Surely, there is news of Lord Chaitanya! **(reads the letter)**

Jailer: This way, my lord he's in the last cell. **(Sanatana quickly lays down. Jailer enters with Hussain Shah and says to Sanatana)** Come on, come on! Get up and greet your illustrious visitor, Hussain Shah.

Hussain: So, how do you like prison life?

Sanatana: This entire world is a prison. Some are shackled with iron chains, and some with gold and jewels.

Hussain: I see that this week of confinement has not disturbed your humor. I am here to give you another chance. I don't know if any news creeps into these cells, but perhaps you've heard today I'll be off to attack Orissa, and I wish you to come along on this campaign.

Sanatana: You are going to Orissa to give pain to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. For this reason, I am powerless to go with you.

Hussain: So be it. Jailer, shut the door.

Jailer: Yes, my lord. **(they exit)**

Sanatana: (reads) *Lord Chaitanya is no longer in Jagannath Puri but has already departed for Vrindavan. Anupama and myself are leaving immediately to join Him, and you must get released and come to meet us. I have left you 10,000 coins. Use them to get out of prison. Somehow or other, get yourself released and come to Vrindavan.*

Such wonders can only be accomplished by the mercy of Lord Chaitanya! Now I must act with due haste! Jailer! Jailer!

Jailer: Yes?

Sanatana: May I trouble you for a moment?

Jailer: What is it you want? Water... something to eat... a blanket? I'll try to help you in any way you ask.

Sanatana: My dear sir, you are a saintly person, a compassionate person. You are very fortunate and you have full knowledge of the revealed scriptures. In the Vedas it is stated: *"If one releases a conditioned soul or an imprisoned person, according to religious principles, he himself is also released from material bondage by the Supreme Personality of Godhead."* I've done a lot for you in the past. Now I am in difficulty. Please get me out of here.

Jailer: No, no, I'm sorry. I can't do that.

Sanatana: Wait, look here — here is 5,000 gold coins! Please accept them. By releasing me, you will receive the results of pious activities and become a rich man as well.

Jailer: I am willing to release you... but I'm afraid. The Shah will cut off my head!

Sanatana: There is no danger. The Nawab has gone south. If he returns, tell him that Sanatana went to pass stool near the bank of the Ganges and when he saw the Ganges, he jumped in. Tell him, "I looked for a long time but could find no trace of him. He jumped in with his shackles and therefore he drowned and was washed away by the waves." There is no reason to be afraid, for I shall not remain in this country. I shall become a mendicant and go to the holy city of Mecca.

Jailer: Well... I don't know...

Sanatana: (shows second bag of coins) I was going to save this, but I want you to have it all.

Jailer: Allah be praised! Allah be praised! Alright, but quick! Get underway before dawn breaks. **(unlocks shackles)** Come on, let's go!

SCENE THREE

The Inn

Sanatana: Ishana, here's the inn we were told about.

Innkeeper: Come in! Come in! This abode is a shelter for weary travellers such as yourselves! Sit down and take some drink!

Palmist: Your hand it is the hand of a gentleman who has no business in the forest!

Sanatana: My servant and I are making our way through the forest, but not without great difficulty.

Palmist: You are very determined. I am certain that you will reach your destination.

Sanatana: Only by the grace of Lord Chaitanya.

Palmist: I must say, you do have an unusual palm! It has been my pleasure to meet you! **(goes over to Innkeeper)**

Innkeeper: So what do you have to tell?

Palmist: This man is most extraordinary! He has great spiritual attributes!

Innkeeper: Yes, yes, but how much money does he have?

Palmist: He possesses eight gold coins.

Innkeeper: Eight gold coins! Tonight, I'll lead them down some obscure path. My man will be waiting and then... **(takes out knife and holds it to his neck. Then he addresses Sanatana)** Well, gentlemen, I understand you're having some difficulty in your journey. Don't worry! I will help you out of this jungle this very evening. In the meantime, make yourselves at home. Eat, drink... you are my honored guests. I'll get a room ready for you!

Sanatana: You are very kind. **(Innkeeper exits)**

Ishana: This is a stroke of good fortune!

Sanatana: Ishana, do you understand the nature of diplomacy?

Ishana: What do you mean?

Sanatana: This man is offering us such respect that means he wants something.

Ishana: But master, what could it be?

Sanatana: Well, I have nothing. I think you have some valuables with you.

Ishana: Well, I... uh... I have seven gold coins.

Sanatana: Why have you brought this death knell with you? Give them to me.

Innkeeper: Your room is ready.

Sanatana: You are very kind. I must repay you for all your help. Here, take these gold coins and get me through the jungle. I'm a prisoner of the government and I can't go along the common road.

Innkeeper: I knew you had the coins and on this very night I would have killed you for them! It is very good that you have offered them to me. I am now relieved from sinful activity.

Sanatana: Will you still help me?

Innkeeper: Of course, of course! I won't even accept these gold coins, but I shall get you through the jungle simply to perform a pious activity.

Sanatana: If you do not accept these coins then someone else will kill me for them. You keep them.

Innkeeper: In this world there is danger at every step. We must accept that fact. But you should not be deterred in enjoying what is yours.

Sanatana: Nothing is mine. Everything in this universe is owned by the Lord. One should therefore accept only those things which are necessary and nothing else. So you keep the coins. I am on my way to see Lord Chaitanya and I have no need for such things.

Innkeeper: That you have come to my inn, is truly a benediction. Alright then, come!

Sanatana: Ishana, I know that you have another gold coin. Keep it and return home. **(Ishana exits)** At the court of Hussain Shah I had so much material wealth, social position, good education, friends and servants, but I can see now that these were all impediments to my spiritual life. Now I am free. My only desire is to surrender at the lotus feet of Lord Chaitanya. I only want His causeless devotional service in my life birth after birth.

SCENE FOUR

Hajipur

Sri Kanta: Sanatana!

Sanatana: Yes. Who is it?

Sri Kanta: It is I, your brother-in-law, Sri Kanta. And what brings you to Hajipur, looking like a mendicant?

Sanatana: Sri Krishna is directing the wanderings of all living entities.

Sri Kanta: Sanatana, please tell me why you are not at the court of Hussain Shah?

Sanatana: He has become displeased with me because I am no longer interested in serving him.

Sri Kanta: Sanatana, what are you saying? Certainly he treated you with the respect and affection one has for a brother.

Sanatana: Yes, and when I would no longer lend my support to his nefarious plans, he threw me in prison. Such is the way of relationships based on sense gratification. When there is some discord, then it is finished. All relationships are like that... except for one the relationship between the spiritual master and his disciple.

Sri Kanta: But to leave the royal court this is rash behavior! Perhaps it was the daily pressure of your governmental duties. Please think it over.

Sanatana: I have thought it over quite well and I am on my way to serve my spiritual master.

Sri Kanta: Stay with me for a few days. Now, get rid of these dirty clothes and dress like a gentleman. I will get you everything you need.

Sanatana: You come like a ghost in the night to lure me back to those things which I have given up. I won't stay here for another minute.

Sri Kanta: Sanatana...

Sanatana: If you really want to help me, then please get me across the Ganges.

Sri Kanta: Of course I will help you. Here, at least take this blanket. It's a chilly night. **(Sri Kanta gives Sanatana a fancy blanket, and they exit)**

SCENE FIVE

Chandrashekhara's house

Lord Chaitanya: The Vedic literatures explain that Krishna is the central point of attraction, and His service should be our only activity. To attain the platform of love of Krishna is life's ultimate goal. Therefore, Krishna, Krishna's service and love of Krishna are the three great riches of life.

Chandrashekhara: But the flowery language of the Vedas gives way to so much interpretation and speculation. Therefore, to perfect one's life is a very difficult task, isn't it?

Lord Chaitanya: Whether one accepts Vedic literature, directly or indirectly, ultimately all knowledge points to Lord Krishna. Then, when complete knowledge of Him is realized, the bondage of Maya, the illusory energy, is broken. Chandrashekhara Prabhu?

Chandrashekhara: Yes, my Lord?

Lord Chaitanya: There is a devotee at your door. Please call him in.

Chandrashekhara: I don't see any devotee, my Lord.

Lord Chaitanya: Is there anyone at your door at all?

Chandrashekhara: Just some Muslim mendicant.

Lord Chaitanya: Please bring him in.

Chandrashekhara: *Daravesh*, please come in. Lord Chaitanya is calling you. **(he comes in and Lord Chaitanya embraces him)** This is extraordinary!

Sanatana: O my Lord, do not touch me.

Lord Chaitanya: I am touching you just to purify Myself because by the force of your devotional service you can purify the whole universe! My dear Vaishnava, seeing a person like you is the perfection of the one's eyesight. Touching your lotus feet is the perfection of the sense of touch. Glorifying your good qualities is the tongue's real activity. In this world it is very difficult to find a pure devotee of the Lord.

Sanatana: My dear Lord, please do not speak like this. I am most fallen. For so many years I have been in the service of meat eaters...

Lord Chaitanya: Krishna is very merciful and He is the deliverer of all fallen souls. My dear Sanatana, Krishna has saved you from life's deepest hell! He is an ocean of mercy!

Sanatana: I do not know who Krishna is. By Your mercy only have I been released from Maya's clutches.

Lord Chaitanya: You must tell Me about your escape from prison! I met your brother, Rupa, at Prayag. He told Me that he had put aside a large sum of money for your release. He and Anupama have already gone to Vrindavan. As for now, I want you to go and shave. Chandrashekhara Prabhu!

Chandrashekhara: Yes, my Lord?

Lord Chaitanya: Make Sanatana gentle. Show him where to bathe. Get him some new garments and then bring him some *prasadam.*

Chandrashekhara: Yes, my Lord!

SCENE SIX

The Ganges

Sanatana: Even though I have accepted the renounced order of life, still Lord Chaitanya is not very pleased with me. He repeatedly glances at my woolen blanket. I can see He does not approve of it. I must aim at giving up all varieties of sense gratification. I have an idea... O washerwoman!

Washerwoman: Yes, who is it that wants to speak with me?

Sanatana: Please, I beg to make a request of you...

Washerwoman: Yes, yes, of course. I can see you are a saintly person and worthy of receiving charity. What do you want?

Sanatana: Trade me your old quilt for this fine woolen blanket.

Washerwoman: I am a poor simple washerwoman and you are a respectable gentleman. Why do you joke with me? You have such a valuable blanket, and instead you want my old torn quilt? Why are you joking with me like this?

Sanatana: I'm not joking. Please take this blanket and give me your old quilt. **(they exchange blankets)**

Washerwoman: Well, uh... It's not stolen, is it?

Sanatana: Certainly not. Thank you very much!

Washerwoman: What kind of a madman is he? **(exits)**

Sanatana: The Supreme Personality of Godhead has saved me from the sinful life of material existence. By His desire my last piece of material attachment is now gone. **(Lord Chaitanya enters)**

Lord Chaitanya: O Sanatana, you have a new blanket!

Sanatana: Yes, my Lord.

Lord Chaitanya: It is contradictory to be in the renounced order of life and wear a valuable blanket. One loses his spiritual strength by doing this and will become the object of jokes. Lord Krishna is very merciful. He has nullified your attachment for material things. Why should Krishna allow you to maintain any last bit of attachment? After curing a disease, a good physician does not allow any of the disease to remain. For you, the miseries of worldly existence no longer exist. You are fit to propagate the cult of devotional service. Therefore, gradually hear all the truths about it from Me. I shall tell you about them.

Narrator: Sanatana Goswami thus inquired into all phases of devotional service, and Lord Chaitanya taught him the most confidential subjects as found in the authoritative scriptures like *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *Bhagavad-Gita*, *Hari-Vamsha* and others.

Lord Chaitanya: Now, Sanatana, go to Vrindavan and excavate the different sites of Krishna's pastimes in Mathura. Construct temples in Vrindavan and write many books on the principles of Vaishnavism.

Narrator: Sanatana executed all the desires of the Lord. He constructed the famous temple of Madana Mohan at Vrindavan, and he wrote many books on the principles of devotional service. Indeed, all his associates, called the Goswamis of Vrindavan, wrote volumes of literature on the science of self realization a task which was continued by their disciples and is carried on down to the present day. By the meeting of Sanatana and Lord Chaitanya, we learn that in order to understand spiritual subject matter, one must approach a spiritual master. ***(kirtan)***

The End

Conversion of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya #2

Editor's Note -This simple play would be very instructive and enjoyable to see.

SCENE ONE - The Forest

(Lord Nityananda and several devotees come on. They look about, admiring the setting.)

Narrator: After taking the renounced order of life, Sannyasa, Lord Caitanya journeyed with Lord Nityananda and other devotees toward Jagannath Puri in Orissa. When Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu arrived at the city known as Kamalpura, He decided to take His bath in the Bhaginadi River and therefore left His Sannyasa staff in the care of Lord Nityananda. While Lord Caitanya was bathing and visiting the temple of Lord Siva known as Kapotesvara, Lord Nityananda broke the staff into three pieces and threw them into the river. The pastimes of the Lord are both mysterious and wonderful.

Caitanya: Nitai Prabhu, I will take my bath here in this beautiful river and then I will visit the place known as Kapotesware, a temple of Lord Siva. Please keep my danda very safe while I am gone.

Nityananda: My Lord, I am Your servant, whatever You request, I shall do. (Sri Caitanya leaves.) Hmmm ... What is the reason for Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to carry this Danda wherever He goes? He is not a sanyassi, He is more than Paramahamsa! He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself!! I will break this danda and cast the pieces into the river. Then, He will never have to carry it again!

Narrator: After dancing and chanting and exhibiting many wondrous symptoms of ecstasy at Kapotesware, Sri Caitanya returned and requested Nityananda Prabhu to give back His danda.

(Lord Caitanya runs on excitedly.)

Caitanya: Can You see it?! There is the temple of Lord Jagannath in the distance! Hare Krsna! Hari Bol!

Nityananda: Yes, Mahaprabhu, let us all chant!

(sings) Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me(sings) Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me(sings) Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami bhava tu me

(They chant responsibly for a few minutes. Everyone sings in response)

Caitanya: (impatient) Nityananda, please return my staff to Me and We shall go the temple.

Nityananda: My dear Lord, Your staff has been broken into three parts.

Caitanya: How has this happened?

Nityananda: You fell down in ecstasy and I caught You; but We fell down on Your staff and it was broken. I threw the useless pieces into the river.

Caitanya: My sannyasa staff has been broken?! Now I am a bad example of sannyasa behavior. All of you have helped Me greatly by bringing Me here to Jagannatha Puri. However, My only possession was that one staff and You could not keep it safely for Me when I gave it to You. You should all go ahead of Me to Puri! Or get behind Me, I don't care which, but I will go alone to see Lord Jagannatha!

Mukunda: My Lord, please go ahead and we will all follow you.

Caitanya: I will leave at once.

SCENE TWO The Jagannath Puri

Narrator: Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu then began to walk very swiftly to see Lord Jagannath. The devotees could not understand why Lord Nityananda had broken the staff and why Lord Caitanya, first allowing Him to do so, then became angry. No one could understand the purpose of both the Lords, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu.

So, in ecstasy, Lord Caitanya proceeded to the Jagannath Puri temple. Upon seeing the

Deity of Lord Jagannath, He became restless due to Love of Godhead and ran swiftly to

embrace the Lord of the Universe. Being overwhelmed by Love of God, Sri Caitanya

Mahaprabhu fainted and fell to the floor of the temple.

(Music, lights dim and come up to indicate the passage of time)

Watchman: Here is some poor beggar lying on the floor of LordWatchman: Here is some poor beggar lying on the floor of Lord Jagannath's temple. The rascal is asleep! I'll get Him up! Hey You! Get Up! Get up! You can't sleep here! This is the house of the Lord! Get up! Get up! If You don't get up immediately I will beat You with my stick!

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya bursts into the room.)

Sarvabhauma: No! Don't touch Him!!

Watchman: (gasp) Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya!!

Sarvabhauma: Yes, and I forbid you to touch Him!!

Watchman: I am the watchman and it is my duty to make sure that no

homeless men sleep or
loiter in the temple.

Sarvabhauma: This man is a great devotee! Immediately leave Him to me! GO! Leave us
immediately! (Watchman leaves) Hmmmm ? Hmmmmm ? He is so beautiful!! This is not
ordinary sleep - this beautiful young man is actually experiencing Love of God! I can identify
all the symptoms of ecstasy on His body! I want very much to study this. (calling) Watchman!
Come here, please hurry!
(Watchman enters)

Watchman: (Go there, come here - why can't these sadhus make up their minds?) Yes, Your Holiness?

Sarvabhauma: Give me a hand, please. We will move this Devotee to my ashram where He will be more comfortable.

(They pick up Lord Caitanya and take Him off stage.) Gently!

SCENE THREESCENE THREESCENE THREE

(Watchman and temple employees enter from one side and Lord Nityananda's party enters from the other.)

Watchman: It was amazing! Did you see that? A sannyasi came in and fell down asleep on the floor. Of course, I had to get Him out, didn't I? ? After all, that's my job! Then, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, the most famous scholar in all of India comes and tells me to leave the unconscious man alone. Then, the Bhattacharya takes the Sannyasi to his own house! I can't understand it, can you? Why do these things only happen to me? Anyway, the Sannyasi was certainly beautiful, wasn't He? He certainly was ! And He did start sleeping just after He saw Lord Jagannath; I guess He became tired … Anyway, I can't understand it! Who am I to judge? I better just not think about it.

(Watchman and temple employees leave.)

Mukunda: Lord Nityananda! Did You hear that?

Nityananda: Yes, I think I know who that beautiful Sanyassi was!!
Nityananda: Yes, I think I know who that beautiful Sannyasi was!!
Nityananda: Yes, I think I know who that beautiful Sanyassi was!!

Mukunda: It sounds like Lord Caitanya fell into an ecstatic trance and fainted after seeing Lord Jagannath! The scholar, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, took the Lord to his home when the Lord's consciousness did not return ? (Gopinath Acharya enters)

Gopinath: Mukunda Datta!! Is that you? What are you doing in Gopinath: Mukunda Datta!! Is that you? What are you doing in Gopinath: Mukunda Datta!! Is that you? What are you doing in Gopinath: Mukunda Datta!! Is that you? What are you doing in Gopinath: Mukunda Datta!! Is that you? What are you doing in Jagannath Puri?!?

Mukunda: Gopinath Acharya?! Yes, Gopinath!

Gopinath: Please accept my humble obeisances. I am astonished to see you here!

Mukunda: And I am very happy to see you!

Gopinath: Please tell me any news of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Mukunda: The Lord has already arrived here!

Gopinath: Lord Caitanya here?! In Jagannath Puri?!? How wonderful!

Mukunda: And we have all come with Lord Caitanya. Here is Lord Nityananda.

Gopinath: (bows down) I am blessed to have Your presence, Sri Nityananda Prabhu. I beg that You and Your party take Your meals at my home for as long as You stay in Jagannath Puri. Now, please, tell me news of the Lord!

Mukunda: Thank you. Have you heard that He took sannyasa?

Gopinath: No, I hadn't heard. Please tell me more!

Mukunda: After taking sanyassa, Lord Caitanya desired to reside in Jagannath Puri in order
that He would sometimes see the Bengali devotees and they would get news from the Orissan
devotees.

Gopinath: But, where is He now? Is He in the temple, now?

Mukunda: Lord Caitanya left our company and walked ahead to see Lord Jagannath. We have just arrived here and we are looking for Him.

Nityananda: We have heard that a beautiful young Sanyassi fainted upon seeing Lord Jagannath and, in an unconscious condition, has been taken to the ashram of Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya.

Gopinath: Lord Caitanya has been taken to Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya's? That's wonderful; Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya is my brother-in-law! Let us go there at once!
(All leave)

SCENE FOUR Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya's Ashram

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya and several of his disciples are with Lord Caitanya.)

Narrator: Meanwhile, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, with the help of His disciples, laid Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu down in a very sanctified room. After examining the body of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya saw that His stomach was not moving. The Lord did not even appear to be breathing. The Bhattacharya became very anxious.

Sarvabhauma: The Sannyasi does not seem to be breathing ? He may be in ecstasy or then again, He may be dead. I know a simple test to determine whether He is alive or not ... I'll get a cotton swab - ah, here's one, and I'll hold it by the Sannyasi's nostrils, and if the fibers of the cotton swab move due to His breathing, I'll know that He is still alive. If they do not move - well, there is no use keeping a dead body within one's home? (excited) They're moving!! He's alive! He's not dead, but His condition has been brought about by transcendental love of Krsna!! These signs only take place in great eternally liberated souls, how is this possible in the body of an unknown person?

(Gopinath Acharya enters.)

Disciple: Gopinath Acarya ki jaya!

Sarvabhauma: Gopinath! How fortunate you are to have come at this time!

Gopinath: Oh! To see the Lord like this is very painful, but still, I am happy to see the Lord in any condition!
(Lord Nityananda, Mukunda Datta and other devotees enter.)

Sarvabhauma: Nityananda Prabhu is here, too!! Namaste! Sarvabhauma: Nityananda Prabhu is here, too!! Namaste! Sarvabhauma: Nityananda Prabhu is here, too!! Namaste! Sarvabhauma: Nityananda Prabhu is here, too!! Namaste! Sarvabhauma: Nityananda Prabhu is here, too!! Namaste!

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya greets Lord Nityananda with folded hands.) Please sit down.

(Disciples spread out mats or cushions. Everyone sits.)

I am so fortunate that you have all come to my humble ashram. My disciples will bring

refreshments. Nityananda Prabhu, have You ever seen such a situation? This Sanyassi has fallen

down in the temple of Lord Jagannath and I cannot understand how to bring Him back to

external consciousness.

Nityananda: Sir, This is not an ordinary sannyasi.

Sarvabhauma: Yes, I can see that.

Nityananda: Nor is His unconsciousness ordinary.

Sarvabhauma: Yes, I can see that, too.

Nityananda: He is Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead in the form

of His devotee and His ecstasy is such that He can be aroused only if we all chant together the

Hare Krsna Mahamanta very loudly!

Sarvabhauma: Are You sure that will wake Him up? I don't think it could.

Nityananda: Yes, it will, if we chant loudly enough. Everyone chant!

All: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

(Lord Caitanya awakens. He stands up and raises His arms.)

Caitanya: Hari! Hari!Caitanya: Hari! Hari!

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya bows down and touches Lord Caitanya's lotus feet. Vaisnavas sit down again and Disciples serve them water.)

Sarvabhauma: Namo Narayana! I offer my obeisances to Narayana!!

Caitanya: Krsna matir astu, let your attention be on Krsna and may you ultimately become

Krsna Conscious!

Sarvabhauma: So, You are simply a Vaishnava sannyasi, a worshipper of Lord Krsna. But, as you are a sannyasi, I wish to become Your servant.

Caitanya: You are Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya! You are the most famous and learned scholar of Vedanta philosophy! You are the master of all the people of the world. I must take shelter of you!

Sarvabhauma: It sees to be very dangerous for You to go alone to the temple of Lord Jagannath. Today, I had to carry You here when You fainted.

Caitanya: Thank you for saving Me from My difficult situation, today.

Sarvabhauma: What happened today may occur again and I may not be there to protect You next time.

Caitanya: You are right, from now on, I will never enter the temple alone. I will only view Lord Jagannath from the place known as the Garuda Stambha.

Sarvabhauma: That is a good idea. Now, I will arrange an apartment for You to stay in while You are in Jagannath Puri. I will see to it that you comfortable and peaceful.

Caitanya: Thank You.

Sarvabhauma: Please go now to see Lord Jagannath!

(Lord Caitanya, Lord Nityananda and Their party leave.)

Sarvabhauma: (to Gopinatha Acharya) This sannyasi is very meek and humble by nature. And He is very beautiful. I am feeling very affectionate to Him. What is His name?

Gopinath: His name is Sri Krsna Caitanya.

Sarvabhauma: Sri Krsna is a good name but the name Caitanya means that He belongs to a second class community of sannyasis.

Gopinath: Sri Krsna Caitanya is the Supreme Lord Himself and He is therefore independent of any formalities.

Sarvabhauma: It is also worrying me that this sannyasi is just in the most youthful part of his life. He is so beautiful, also! How will He be able to follow the strict regulations of sannyasa!?

Gopinath: My dear Bhattacarya, you do not yet know the greatness of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu!

Sarvabhauma: Still, I would like to help Him in some way. I will continuously speak to Him the philosophy of monism. He will thereby know that we are all God and therefore He will be able to remain fixed in His vows of renunciation.

Gopinath: Bhattacharya! All the symptoms of the Supreme Personality of Godhead are found in Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to the highest degree!!

Sarvabhauma: Yes, I will educate Him, change Him from being a Vaisnava, fix Him up in monism, offer Him saffron cloth and initiate Him again as a first class Saraswate sannyasi!

Gopinath: Those who are ignorant find the conclusions of theauthorized teachers very difficult to understand. You are a renowned scholar and a teacher of many disciples. Indeed, there is no scholar to match your learning on all the earth.

Nevertheless, because you do not have even a pinch of the Lord's mercy, you cannot understand the Supreme Personality of Godhead, although He was present in your own home!

(They exit. Lights dim and increase to indicate the passage of time.)

SCENE FIVE - The TempleSCENE FIVE - The Temple

Narrator: The next morning, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya visited the temple of Lord Jagannath together. Both of them were in a very pleasant mood. When they entered the temple, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya offered Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu a seat, while He himself sat down on the floor, out of respect for a sannyasi.

Sarvabhauma: My dear Sri Krsna Caitanya, now I wish to explain something to You for Your own good. You are a Vaisnava sannyasi, You are young and handsome and I feel much affection for You. I therefore want to give You Absolute Knowledge- the knowledge of Vedanta!

Caitanya: You are very merciful to Me and therefore I feel that it is My duty to obey your orders.

Sarvabhauma: Hearing this Vedanta philosophy is a sanyassi's main business. You should not waste any more time. You should start hearing Vedanta philosophy immediately and you should never stop hearing it! I will begin now. I am reading from Sri

Sankacarya's commentary
on the Vedanta, the Sarirak Bhasya ?

Ommmmmmmmmmmmmm (cough cough)
Athato Brahma Jijnasa ?We must now inquire into the Absolute Truth
Janma dyasya yatah - The source of everything is Brahman, the formless.
Tat Vam Asmi - You are the same!

Narrator: Thus for seven days, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya continuously instructed the Lord in Vedanta philosophy. He explained that God is formless, inactive, and has no qualities. He described the living entity as God, but in illusion. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya presented that the world was false and that the Absolute Truth, by the accumulation of all evidences by logic, experimentation and hypothesis proved to be impersonal. For seven days, Lord Caitanya did not say a word. He simply sat and listened to Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya. On the eighth day, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya said to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu:

Sarvabhauma: You have been listening to the Vedanta Philosophy from me continually for
seven days!

Caitanya: Yes.

Sarvabhauma: But, You have simply been listening, completely silent! Since You do not say whether You think it is right or wrong, I cannot know whether You are actually understanding the Vedanta philosophy or not.

Caitanya: My Spiritual Master said that I was a fool so I generally do not study Vedanta
philosophy. I am just trying to hear your commentary because you said that it is My duty as a
sannyasi.

Sarvabhauma: But, You are silent! Why don't You ask me questions about my commentary?? I would gladly explain it clearly and simply for You, and then You will no longer be a fool!!

Caitanya: I can understand the meaning of each verse of the Vedanta Sutra, clearly and easily.

Sarvabhauma: Then, what don't You understand?

Caitanya: Each verse of the Vedanta Sutra is clear, but your explanation of the verses covers the meaning, just like a cloud covers the sun.

Sarvabhauma: What!!!! You understand the verses but You don't understand my commentary!??!

Caitanya: Yes, you have simply abandoned the direct meaning and proceeded with your own imaginative interpretation. The statements in the scripture are clear and perfect. They describe the Supreme Absolute Truth as a Person, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, full with all opulences such as Fame, wisdom, beauty, wealth, strength and renunciation. But, you are trying to explain Him as impersonal and formless!

Narrator: Then, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Who presented Himself as a fool to Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, explained the philosophy of Krsna Consciousness, fully quoting the authorized scriptures as evidence. Lord Caitanya amazed the Bhattacharya and proved to him, beyond a doubt, that Krsna is a Person, the Supreme Person, and that the purified consciousness of every soul is service to Krsna with great love and devotion.

After hearing the explanation and evidence given by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya tried to defend the Vedanta interpretations of Sankacaharya. Being a great scholar and word juggler, he presented unlimited opposition to Lord Caitanya's teachings. He presented false arguments and false logic and tried to intimidate and defeat the Lord. However, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu refuted all these additional arguments as well, speaking long into the night, and firmly established the Absolute Truth as Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya became astonished. He was stunned and could not say anything more.

Sarvabhauma: uh but You well ? if we ? conversely ? that is to say it could possibly uh ?

Caitanya: Do not be astonished. Actually, devotional service to Krsna is the highest perfection of human activities. Do you know the ?atmaram verse? from the Srimad Bhagavatam?

Sarvabhauma: Yes, of course, it is a most famous verse.

Caitanya: Could you please chant it for me?

Sarvabhauma: (cough cough) Srimad Bhagavatam Canto 1, Chapter

Atmaramas ca munaye
Nirgrantha apy urukrame
Kurvanty ahaitukim bhaktim
Ittham bhuta guno harih

Caitanya: And the meaning?Caitanya: And the meaning?

Sarvabhauma: Those who are self satisfied, including those who are actually liberated are also attracted to the loving service of Krishna, the Supreme Lord. He is called Krsna because His qualities and activities are all transcendental and wonderful.

Caitanya: Would you kindly explain that verse to Me?

Narrator: Upon being requested by Lord Caitanya, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya explained the atmarama verse in nine different scholarly ways. After finishing his explanations, the scholar Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya said:

Sarvabhauma: My dear sir, I have a great desire to hear Your explanation of this verse.

Narrator: Then, Lord Caitanya, Who is Krsna and possesses all knowledge, explained just the first word in the verse atmarama in eighteen different scholarly ways, astounding Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya. Then the Lord said to the humbled scholar :

Caitanya: Krsna is unlimited. It is impossible to explain His unlimited qualities completely.

Sarvabhauma: Amazing!!! By Your mercy, I am beginning to understand now the meaning of the atmarama verse.? Until now, I have simply wasted my time. You, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, are certainly Lord Krsna Himself!! I was proud of my learning and I couldn't understand Him. Because I couldn't understand Him, I committed so many offenses - I pray that You will forgive me.

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya offers long obeisances directly at the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Flute music plays. Actor dressed as Vishnu appears. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya looks at them both with awe and then Visnu plays His flute to indicate that He is Krsna. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya bows His head to the floor again and Vishnu leaves. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya looks up and sees Lord Caitanya once again.)

Narrator: So, by the mercy of Lord Caitanya, Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya could understand who he was and the purpose of his life. He could understand that he was a spirit soul meant to serve Krsna with his mind, body and words. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya could also understand the importance of chanting the Holy Names of the Lord and assisting Lord Caitanya in the distribution of love of Godhead everywhere.

Sarvabhauma: HARE KRSNA!! All Glories to Sri Krsna Caitanya!! Hare

Krsna!!

(Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya rises and Lord Caitanya embraces him, causing the Bhattacharya to faint. He quickly rises up and starts to dance giddily while chanting the mahamantra quite happily, sometimes falling. Lord Caitanya laughs and catches his hands, trying to keep him from falling. Gopinath Acarya walks in at this time.)

Gopinath: Haha! Jai Sri Caitanya! This is wonderful! My Lord, You are so merciful that You can convert even a dry old word wrangler like my brother-in-law! Now he, too, tastes the nectar of the Holy Names!

Sarvabhauma: (out of breath, ecstatic, transformed) O my dear Lord, You have delivered the whole world, but that is not a very great feat for You. However, You have also delivered me, and that is certainly a credit to Your wonderful power. I had become dull-headed by reading too many books. Indeed I had become like a cold iron bar. But, out of causeless mercy, You have melted my heart and thereby shown that Your ability is the topmost power.

(They have a kirtan. Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya whirls about ecstatically.)

Narrator: So, by the mercy of Sri Krsna Caitanya, all the dullness in the mind of the Bhattacharya was removed and he was released from material bondage in the bodily conception of life. Free from pride, he became a pure devotee of Krsna and he always chanted the Holy Name of Sri Krsna Caitanya, the son of Mother Saci. Indeed, chanting the Holy Name Became his life and soul.

If one hears, with faith and love, these pastimes concerning Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's meeting with Sarvabhauma Bhattacarya, he very soon becomes freed from the net of speculation and fruitive activities and attains the shelter of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's lotus feet.

(Kirtan)

The Deities of Gauri dasa Pandit

(a play taken from a lecture by Jayapataka Swami)
adapted by Madhuryalilananda devi dasi
New Talavana Gurukula, USA)

Narrator: Gauri dasa Pandit was a great devotee of Lord Caitanya that lived near Navadwip in West Bengal. Lord Caitanya was very merciful to him by personally being present while Deities were being made for Gauri dasa Pandit to worship. These deities were very unusual and had many unique pastimes.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: Gauri dasa Pandit, it is time for us to leave. We have been here much too long.

Nityananda Prabhu: Yes. We really must leave now.

Gauri dasa:: No you can't leave! Who will I talk to? Who will be my friend? If You leave than how will I be able to live? You have to stay here with me!

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: How can I stay? I have so many other devotees that I have to see. We can't stay here all the time.

Gauri dasa:: Well then, if You can't stay here, then I will have
Deities made of You and Nityananda so that I can worship Them while You are gone. That will give me some happiness while You are away.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: I can't Have Deities made in My presence! This is not my pastime.

Gauri dasa:: No! No! I don't care. Either You give me a set of Deities of You and Nitai, or You both stay here with me. I won't let You go. So You decide.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: All right. How can I say no to My devotee?

Narrator: So, special Deities were carved for Gauri dasa right in the presence of Lord Caitanya. When they were done Caitanya Mahaprabhu approached Gauri dasa for his permission to leave.
(Actors for the Deities are standing on the alter when they open the curtain.)

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: All right, Gauri dasa, the Deities are ready now. It is time for us to go.

Gauri dasa: No, I've changed my mind.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu: (surprised) What do you mean, you've changed your mind?

Gauri dasa:: I've changed my mind. You must stay! You say that the Deities are non-different from You, so let the Deities go and

You and Nityananda Prabhu stay here with me. (Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu look at each other and smile.)

Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu: All right.
(Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu hold up their hands like the Deities and the Deities on the altar put their hands down and start walking away.)

Gauri dasa:: No! No! You're tricking me. Stop! Come back!

Deities: All right, we'll stay.
(The Deities put up Their arms and Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu put down Their arms and walk away.)

Gauri dasa: No, no- it's You Two I want! I'm sure of it!!

Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu: All right. We'll stay. (They hold up Their hands and the Deities start walking off.)

Gauri dasa: (Running after the new Gaura and Nitai) No! No! You must stay here! You're tricking me! Don't leave me!!!
No! Let them go (Pointing to the deities)! You stay here with me.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu: All right.

Gauri dasa: No,no, come back. You go and You go! You stay and You stay!!

Narrator: This happens so many times that after a while Gauri dasa forgot which set was originally Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu and which ones were the Deities. Finally, in frustration, Gauri dasa agrees to let Two leave.

Narrator: For many years, Gauri dasa Pandit very faithfully and devotedly worships his Gaura Nitai Deities. One year, around the time of Gaura Purnima, he had to leave for a while.

Gauri dasa:: Hridayananda, come here.
(Hridayananda comes in and offers his obeisances)

Gauri dasa:: Hridayananda, I must go away for a few days. I want you to take care of my Gaura Nitai Deities while I am gone.

Hridayananda: This is a great honor!. Thank you very much! I will be very careful with Their worship.

Gauri dasa: I know I can trust you, because you are a pure devotee of Their Lordships. (Gauri dasa leaves.)

Hridayananda: I must be very careful in worshiping my spiritual master's Deities. Let me see, Lord Caitanya's birthday is very soon. We had better hold a huge festival for the pleasure of the
Deities. (He thinks for a minute.) We will need lots of prasadam to distribute. We can invite all the devotees of Lord Caitanya from the neighboring villages. I better make a list of what we will need. (He walks off stage)

Narrator: Hridayananda organized a huge festival. He ordered all kinds of vegetables, fruits, grains, milk, yogurt, and ghee. Many devotees were invited from neighboring villages and first-class arrangements were made for them.
(Hridayananda is organizing the festival, people are walking back and forth with bags of grain, and baskets of vegetables, and jugs of milk. Hridayananda is directing things as people ask him
questions. Gauri dasa enters on the side and watches for a minute unseen by Hridayananda. In an angry mood he walks over to Hridayananda:)

Gauri dasa: What is going on here? Hridayananda, what is all this?

Hridayananda: (Hridayananda offers his obeisances to his guru.) We are getting ready for the Gaura Purnima festival!

Gauri dasa: You are having a festival and you didn't ask me? Without the permission of your guru, your spiritual master, you go ahead and have a festival? NO! You can't have this festival!

Hridayananda: (Very Humbly) Yes, Gurudeva.

Gauri dasa: Forget about this festival! Go and chant your japa by the Ganges!

Hridayananda: Yes, Gurudeva. (He offers obeisances and goes to the side of the stage and sits and starts chanting. A produce seller enters. The man goes to Hridayananda who directs him to Gauri dasa.)

Devotee 1: Where do these vegetables and grains go?

Gauri dasa: (Surprised) What? Vegetables and grains? Oh, I guess to the temple kitchen.

Devotee 2: Where does this milk go?

Gauri dasa:: Milk? I don't know. Put it over there (points to where the last devotee put the produce.)

Devotee 3: (comes in with a big burlap sack) Where does all this rice go? I have six more men with rice, too!

Gauri dasa:: That's quite a lot of rice! Take it to the temple kitchen, I guess.

Devotee 4: There are fifty devotees from the next village to the north, seventy five devotees from the village to the south, and one hundred and fifty devotees from the village across the Ganges that want to know where they will be staying during the festival.

Gauri dasa:: Oh dear, Hridayananda, come here right now!
(Hridayananda runs to his guru and offers obeisances.)

Gauri dasa:: All right, have your festival. There is so much produce- we have to use it up; and we wouldn't want to disappoint all these devotees!

Hridayananda: Jaya! Hari bol! (Hridayananda starts directing everyone. Several more devotees have come in needing to know where to go.)

Hridayananda: Prabhu, put this in the festival kitchen. This goes to the temple, that goes to the men's quarters. Can you get a group together to roll puris? Please make sure that the offering is on time.

Devotee 1: The offering is ready for the Deities now.
(Hridayananda goes over to Gauri dasa.)

Hridayananda: The offering is ready for your Gaura Nitai Deities now.

Gauri dasa: Good, bring it over while I get ready. Go and start the kirtan. (Hridayananda brings the plate to Gauri dasa and Gauri dasa puts the offering plate on a table. He is standing so that he is not facing the Deities. He is doing achman and getting things ready. Hridayananda has gone to the other side of the stage and has started a kirtan with the devotees. While Gauri dasa has his back turned to the Deities, Caitanya and Nityananda look over to the kirtan and decide to join it. They sneak off the altar and join the kirtan, standing in the back. No one notices them. Gauri dasa turns around to put the plate on the altar and sees that the Deities are gone.)

Gauri dasa:: Yaaaaa!!!! Where are Nitai Gaura??! Where are Nitai Gaura. They were just here! The Deities are gone! (He runs to center stage) Where are Nitai Gaura? NO!NO!NO! They are cheating me again. They've run off! (He runs around looking for them behind some of the props. Finally he sees them with the devotees in the kirtan, dancing.)

Gauri dasa:: There they are; They are trying to cheat me again!
(He picks up a stick and starts to chase them around the stage. Gaura Nitai look around and start to run, trying several times to hide.)

Gauri dasa:: Get back in the temple right now! Nitai Gaura, You don't cheat me, You get back in the temple right now!! Don't You run off like this!!!

(Nitai Gaura hide in Hridayananda's heart. To do this they hide behind some scenery. While Hridayananda has had his back turned in the kirtan he has taken out of shirt a big picture of Gaura Nitai on a red heart on a string around his neck.)

Gauri dasa:: There They are! They are hiding in your heart, Hridayananda!

Hridayananda: (Surprised) In my heart?! (He looks at his chest, so does everyone else.)

Gauri dasa:: Nitai Gaura are hiding in your heart! (He walks over to Hridayananda shaking his stick.) Get out of his heart immediately! Get back in the temple where You are supposed to be! (Nityananda Prabhu and Caitanya Mahaprabhu leave Their hiding place and Hridayananda turns around so he can put the picture back in his shirt. Gauri dasa follows Gaura and Nitai onto the altar.)

Gauri dasa: (yelling) You don't ever do that again! (a bit softer:) If you leave then I'll be friendless! I'll have no one to talk to, no one to offer prasadam to! You just can't go and run away like that! It is very disturbing!! (Gaura Nitai stand back up on the altar like Deities. Gauri dasa puts the offering in front of them.)

Gauri dasa: Now take your prasadam. It's getting cold! (He closes the curtains and leaves.) Hridayananda, come here. (Hridayananda comes over, the other devotees follow.)
From now on your name will be Hridayacaitanya because Lord Caitanya hid in your heart.

Devotees: Jaya! Hari bol!

Gauri dasa: And don't ever leave the Deities curtain open longer than a minute or two! I don't want Nitai Gaura getting attached to any other devotees and running off! Now, start the kirtan
again!

KIRTAN.

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(He picks up a stick and starts to chase them around the stage. Gaura Nitai look around and start to run, trying several times to hide.)

Gauri dasa:: Get back in the temple right now! Nitai Gaura, You don't cheat me, You get back in the temple right now!! Don't You run off like this!!!

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Gauri dasa: (yelling) You don't ever do that again! (a bit softer:) If you leave then I'll be friendless! I'll have no one to talk to, no one to offer prasadam to! You just can't go and run away like that! It is very disturbing!! (Gaura Nitai stand back up on the altar like Deities. Gauri dasa puts the offering in front of them.)

Gauri dasa: Now take your prasadam. It's getting cold! (He closes the curtains and leaves.) Hridayananda, come here. (Hridayananda comes over, the other devotees follow.)
From now on your name will be Hridayacaitanya because Lord Caitanya hid in your heart.

Devotees: Jaya! Hari bol!

Gauri dasa: And don't ever leave the Deities curtain open longer than a minute or two! I don't want Nitai Gaura getting attached to any other devotees and running off! Now, start the kirtan
again!

KIRTAN.

THE GOLDEN AVATAR

* * * * *

CAST: Narrator, Advaita Acharya, Lord Krishna, Jagannath Mishra, Shachi Devi, Sita Devi, Nilambara Chakravarti, Servant, little Nimai, 2 thieves: Mahesh and Ashok, Teenage Nimai, 2 Brahmanas, 2 Students, Nityananda Prabhu, Haridas Thakura, Householder, Jagai, Madhai, sannyasi Lord Chaitanya, Swarupa Damodara, Govinda.

INVOCATION

Narrator: My dear assembled devotees, before I begin to tell my amazing tale to you, in order that we may have an auspicious start I would like to ask the permission of Lord Nityananda, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, to let us begin to give you a glimpse, and only a glimpse, into the wonderful pastimes of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. We pray on this auspicious day that we can offer our respects to Sri Nityananda Prabhu, who can bless us, and by whose grace we can attain the mercy of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's lotus feet.

May we remind all the assembled devotees that there may be many flaws in our presentation, but we are simply neophyte devotees. Our efforts are like trying to offer candlelight to the effulgent sun. So we hope that everyone is sitting comfortably, eager to drink in the nectar of Lord Chaitanya's pastimes, so that we may begin to glorify the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

* * * * *

Narrator: Five hundred years ago, most of the world's population were only interested in the materialistic way of life. Lord Krishna appeared five thousand years ago to give us valuable instructions, which are contained in essence in the *Bhagavad-Gita*. But for a long time throughout history no one could really follow them or even understand them. Seeing this pitiful situation, a great devotee of the Lord named Advaita Acharya prayed to Lord Krishna to descend to the Earth planet to deliver everyone from the clutches of illusion.

* * * * *

SCENE ONE

Advaita Acharya's Lamentation

(Open curtains a person walks onstage and gets beaten up)

Advaita: Oh, what a calamity! What is to be done? There are so many sinful activities going on, but no one wants to serve Krishna. No one knows how to serve Krishna. No one really has any understanding of the *Bhagavad-Gita*. Kali-yuga is sweeping in fast, and soon everyone will be plunged into

complete madness a society devoid of God. I must pray for these people. I must pray to Krishna to descend and personally take up this task of saving all the conditioned souls. **(He starts to worship his S*halagram-shila* aloud. Lord Krishna appears with Srimati Radharani.)**

My dear Lord Krishna, I offer my respectful obeisances unto You again and again. You are the original Supreme Personality of Godhead. This is confirmed by Lord Brahma in his prayers to You *Govindam adi purusam tam aham bhajami.* My Lord, You are the well-wisher of everyone. Therefore, I request You, I plead to You, I beg You, please descend and propagate Your glories so that even a common man can follow You. Please save them from the dense, dark age of Kali. My Lord, everyone here is under the deep illusion that their so-called lives will last forever. Apart from You, my Lord, no one really cares about these people. So please come and save them, for they do not know what is good for them.

Krishna: My dear Advaita Prabhu, I am very pleased with your prayers and concern about these living entities. Therefore, I will come down very soon as Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. This time I will make a very special appearance. I will come down as a devotee of Krishna and teach everyone by example how to serve Me. My appearance will be as a *gupta-avatar* (concealed incarnation), as few will come to know Me as the original Supreme Personality of Godhead. I will appear in a combined form along with My beloved consort, Srimati Radharani, so that I will be able to feel and actually experience the intense love She has for Me.

Advaita: *Jai, Haribol!* **(the Lord leaves)**

SCENE TWO

The Birth of Baby Vishvambhar

(The home of Jagannath Mishra)

Narrator: In the district of Nadiya, in a town called Navadvipa lived a poor *brahmana,* whose name was Jagannath Mishra. His devoted wife was called Shachi Devi. They lived very peacefully serving their Deity of Adhokshaja Krishna. They had eight daughters, all of whom unfortunately died after birth. The ninth child was a boy and was named Vishvarupa. But when the tenth child was to appear there was some cause of alarm.

Jagannath: I have seen wonderful things! Your body is effulgent, and it appears as if the Goddess of fortune was now personally present in my house. Everywhere I go, people offer me respects.

Shachi: Yes, I have seen wonderfully brilliant beings appearing in the sky as if offering respects and prayers.

Jagannath: In a dream, I saw the Lord entering my heart and then yours. I can therefore understand that a great personality will soon appear. But what worries me is that this is the tenth month of your pregnancy. I wonder why it is taking so long.

Shachi: Yes, this is very strange, indeed. Should we not consult an astrologer to find out the reason for this?

Jagannath: Yes, I have asked your father to come and make a chart for the child. Nilambara Chakravarti is a very respected astrologer. He will compose a horoscope.

Nilambara: (walks in) Ah, Jagannathji, how are you today?

Jagannath: Very well, thank you. By the grace of Lord Hari all is well. Now please be seated. Can I offer you some water or *prasadam?*

Nilambara: A little water will be fine.

Jagannath: Devi, bring some fresh, cool water.

Shachi: Yes.

Nilambara: Yes, indeed, what you were telling me yesterday is very strange.

Jagannath: Today my wife tells me she is again seeing celestial people coming to offer prayers.

Nilambara: Now, let me look through these books. Ah, where has that page gone? I'm sure it was here. Ah, here it is. Let me just read this. **(reads)** Hmmm... very interesting, I must say. Jagannath, I find his signs to be quite extraordinary! Well, my son, there you have it. All the signs indicate a very auspicious time for your child's appearance, so I think there is nothing to worry about at all.

Jagannath: Thank you so much.

Nilambara: It is my pleasure. But I have to go now. If ever you need me in the future, please, you won't hesitate to come and see me, will you?

Jagannath: No, I won't.

Nilambara: Good.

Shachi: O Pitaji, you are leaving so soon? But I wanted to make *prasadam* for you here today.

Nilambara: Never mind, my child, maybe tomorrow. Take care now.

Shachi: Yes, Pitaji. **(Nilambara leaves)**

Narrator: In the year 1486, in the month of Phalguna on the evening of the full moon, the auspicious moment of Sri Chaitanya's birth took place. Everyone was chanting *"Hari! Hari!"* because of the lunar eclipse that was in progress. The atmosphere in all directions became extremely jubilant. At that time, Advaita Acharya Prabhu was dancing in a pleasing mood in

his house at Shantipur. All the devotees and even the demigods became very ecstatic as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Sri Krishna, in the wonderful form of Gauranga Mahaprabhu, advented Himself on this Earth. Advaita Acharya's wife, Sita Devi, went to the house of Jagannath Mishra to present some valuable gifts for the newborn child.

Shachi: Sita, please come in.

Sita: Let me hold Him.

Shachi: Here... oh, He's so beautiful.

Sita: Does He not look exceptionally good?

Shachi: My Pitaji was right about his calculations.

Sita: I have brought some nice gifts for your child.

Shachi: What? You shouldn't have!

Sita: Bring the gifts.

Servant: Yes, right away. **(scene with gifts)**

Sita: Ah, you are so fortunate!

Shachi: What can I say? The Lord is so kind to us.

Jagannath: Ah, Nilambara, please come in.

Nilambara: Congratulations, Jagannath Mishra. Your child is very beautiful!

Jagannath: It is exactly as you had predicted.

Nilambara: Yes, according to the calculations I made, your son will deliver the entire three worlds. He is the maintainer of the universe. So it is quite appropriate to call Him Vishvambhar.

Jagannath: Yes, that's a very nice name.

Shachi: I, too, like that name... Vishvambhar...

Nilambara: Because He was born under the *neem* tree we shall also call Him Nimai.

Jagannath: These are wonderful names you are giving Him. **(He carries on talking, lights fade out.)**

SCENE THREE

Nimai Kidnapped by the Two Thieves

(Outside in the courtyard)

Narrator: The child grew up, giving much joy to His parents and neighbors. Everyone was filled with great delight at the sight of little Nimai. Sometimes He would cry, and all the ladies of the village would chant Hare Krishna and only then would He stop crying. In this way, even in His childhood He had already started His worldwide *sankirtan* mission. **(lights come on)**

Sita: Shachidevi, He always stops crying when we chant.

Shachi: I know, Sita. Sometimes I think He's just trying to trick us into chanting! Anyway, He seems happy now. Let's go and finish making His lunch. **(As they exit, they kiss baby Nimai and pat His head. Then the two thieves stealthily enter.)**

Mahesh: This must be the place.

Ashok: Yeah. Is that Him?

Mahesh: It must be look at all them jewels!

Ashok: Yeah!

Mahesh: Have you got the candy?

Ashok: Yeah, it's here somewhere. Where did it go? Oh, here it is!

Mahesh: What happened to the rest of it? You... you ate it!

Ashok: Well, I... I was hungry...

Mahesh: You fool! Well, anyway, I hope there's enough left. Anyone coming?

Ashok: Nope.

Mahesh: Okay, let's go. **(they approach Nimai)**

Both: Coochee, coochee, coochee coo!

Ashok: Coochee, coochee, coochee!

Mahesh: Come here and have some candy, you sweet little boy!

Ashok: Coochee, coochee, coochee!

Mahesh: Stop! That's enough with that coochee coochee stuff!

Ashok: Well, He is pretty cute.

Mahesh: Don't get attached. Remember what we came for?

Ashok: Okay.

Mahesh: Come here, baby. Come to uncle Mahesh.

Ashok: You're not His uncle.

Mahesh: You idiot! I'm just saying that so He won't be scared. Come here and have some nice sweets... Ashok, it's not working you do something.

Ashok: Like what?

Mahesh: Make a funny face. **(Ashok makes a face, Nimai cries.)** I said funny! Come on act like a clown! **(Ashok does, Nimai laughs.)**

Mahesh: Okay, grab Him and let's go! **(They carry Nimai off. Shachi calls and enters.)**

Shachi: Nimai! Nimai! Lunch is ready. Nimai? Sita, Sita! He's gone!

Sita: **(entering)** Oh, no! Where can He be? Where did He go?

Shachi: May Krishna protect us! You look around that side and I'll look over here. **(They leave as thieves re-enter, exhausted.)**

Mahesh: Whew! I think we've gone far enough now.

Ashok: That's good, 'cuz this kid's pretty heavy... for a baby.

Mahesh: Maybe it's the jewels which are now going to be all ours.

Ashok: What about the kid?

Mahesh: Who cares?

Ashok: Hey Mahesh, something's funny here.

Mahesh: What do you mean?

Ashok: This house looks awfully familiar.

Mahesh: What? You're right! How did we get back here? **(Sita, Shachi and others enter.)**

Ashok: Watch out, here comes the family looking for Him!

Mahesh: It's all your fault, you numbskull! Let's get out of here. **(They run out.)**

Shachi: Nimai! Where have You been?

Sita: We've been looking all over for You!

Jagannath: Thank Krishna, He's safely home again! **(Everyone chants and Nimai smiles.)**

SCENE FOUR

The Brahmana's Offering is Spoiled

(Jagannath Mishra's house)

Narrator: One day, a *brahmana* was touring all over the country. He reached Navadvipa, and Jagannath Mishra received him as his guest.

Jagannath: O great *mahatma,* please come in. What can I do for you? Would you like to stay at our house before you travel on? It would give us much joy if you could spend the night here. We can arrange for nice *prasadam* for you.

Brahmana: Thank you very much for your kind hospitality. I have heard about your generous nature. I would like to cook something for my Gopal Deity. Is it possible to make the necessary arrangements? I would be very grateful to you.

Jagannath: Please, be my guest. It will be my pleasure to serve you.

Brahmana: Not me, but my Gopal Deity.

Jagannath: Devi, please make all the necessary arrangements for our guest to cook for Gopalji. Bring the finest rice. Bring all the fresh grains and vegetables.

Shachi: Yes, Prabhu. **(she brings foodstuffs. Brahmana begins to cook)**

Jagannath: Please feel comfortable here. Consider this to be your home. If you need anything, just let me know. **(Jagannath Mishra, Shachi and Nimai exit)**

Brahmana: Thank you. Hmmm, let's see... I will make an altar over here. Then, I will prepare some sweet-rice. **(he mixes, etc., and sings *"Govinda Jaya Jaya, Gopala Jaya Jaya, Radha Ramana Hari, Govinda Jaya Jaya."*)** Now, it is ready to offer. **(he bows down and begins to offer *"namo brahmana-devaya..."* when Nimai approaches and eats the *bhoga.* Brahmana looks up.)** What are you doing? You are spoiling my offering! Jagannath Mishra! Jagannath Mishra!

Jagannath: Nimai! You shouldn't have done that. Come on, let's go.

Brahmana: Oh well, children are innocent. **(The Brahmana prepares again, as before. When he begins to offer, Nimai again eats the *bhoga.* The Brahmana looks up, astonished.)** What are you doing? You've spoiled my offering again! Jagannath Mishra! Your son has spoiled my offering again!

Jagannath: Nimai, You naughty boy! This time I will put You to bed!

Brahmana: I'll prepare it again. **(He repeats the same procedure. Nimai comes**

in and eats the *bhoga.*) What has been done? What has been done? I guess Lord Vishnu does not want to eat!

Nimai: My dear Brahmana, formerly I was the son of Mother Yashoda. At that time, you were a guest in the house of Nanda Maharaja, and I disturbed you in exactly the same way. I am very much pleased with your devotion.

Brahmana: Thank you, Lord. You are very kind.

Nimai: Do not disclose this incident to anyone. Go on in your worship of Me in the form of Gopal.

Brahmana: Thank you, Lord. **(they exit)**

SCENE FIVE

Little Nimai Eats Dirt

(Outside in the courtyard)

Narrator: One day, when the Lord was enjoying playful sports with the other children, Mother Shachi brought a dish filled with fused rice and sweetmeats, and asked Nimai to sit down and eat them.

Shachi: It's time for You to eat! I must go and do my household chores now, but I will be back soon. **(She leaves. Nimai rejects the food, picks up dirt and eats it instead. Then, she returns.)** Nimai! What is this? What is this? Why have you been eating dirt?

Nimai: Why are you so angry, Mother? You have already given me dirt to eat. This is dirt, and the sweetmeats are just a transformation of dirt. This is dirt. That is dirt. So, what is the difference, Mother?

Shachi: Who has taught you this philosophical nonsense that justifies eating dirt? If we eat dirt transformed into grains, our bodies become nourished and strong. But if we eat this plain dirt off the ground, our bodies become diseased and will be destroyed!

Nimai: Why didn't you teach Me this before, Mother? From now on, when I'm hungry, I will not eat dirt.

Shachi: *Jai!*

SCENE SIX

Youthful Nimai Challenged by His Students

(In Nimai's Sanskrit grammar school)

Narrator: Nimai is in His teens now. Once the Lord had gone to Gaya to perform

pinda for His departed father. There He took initiation from Ishvara Puri. When He returned home, He was a changed person. No longer was He Nimai Pandit, a big scholar, defeater of Keshava Kashmiri, but now He was a performer of *sankirtan.* One day, as He was conducting a class on Sanskrit grammar...

Nimai: Class, please take a break now while I speak with this learned astrologer, who has so kindly agreed to visit us. **(students leave)**

Nimai: Please come, my dear Brahmana, please be seated. Now, with your calculations, please ascertain what my previous birth was.

Brahmana: Yes, now let me see... This calculation is very strange. Are You sure about Your signs?

Nimai: Yes, positive. Tell Me what do you see?

Brahmana: Just a minute, let me double-check.

Nimai: Well, then, who was I in My previous birth?

Brahmana: My dear sir, in Your previous birth You were the shelter of all creation, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Your identity is inconceivable by my calculations.

Nimai: My dear sir, I think you do not know very clearly who I was, for I know that in My previous birth I was a cowherd boy. I was born in the family of cowherd men, and I gave protection to cows and calves. And because of My pious activities, I have now become the son of a *brahmana.*

Brahmana: What I saw in my meditation was full of opulence, so I was very much confused. I am certain that Your form and the form I saw in the meditation are one and the same. Whoever You are, I offer my humble obeisances unto You!

Nimai: I am very happy with you. **(Brahmana goes off. The students come back.)** Alright, boys, today we will practice our grammar by glorifying Krishna, then we will have more *kirtan.*

Student 1: My dear teacher, how is it that now Your teaching is very different?

Student 2: Yes, it is always about Krishna.

Student 1: We are always chanting, not studying like we used to.

Student 2: Maybe we can massage Your head with coconut oil, which will sooth Your head. **(laughs)**

Nimai: *Gopi, gopi, gopi!*

Student 1: Why are You chanting the name *gopi, gopi,* instead of the Holy Name of Krishna? I think You definitely need oil on Your head. What will You gain

by chanting *"gopi, gopi?"*

Nimai: How dare you speak like that?! Today I shall beat you with My stick!

Student 1: What? Our teacher intends to beat us, the *brahmanas!* What an insult! I will tell my father to come here at once! **(The students leave and come back with an angry father.)**

Brahmana: Do You have no shame? How dare You lift a stick to strike the body of a *brahmana* boy? You have no fear that You are going to break the religious principles. If You ever dare to raise Your voice or a stick to these boys again, we will all get together and strike You! **(leaves)**

Nimai: These *smarta brahmanas* are very proud of their so-called birth and knowledge. They have no respect for Me, even though I am a great scholar and a teacher. Because of these offenses, no one will be able to attain Krishna. I have to deliver these fallen souls. Only if they offer Me respects will their offense be nullified. Therefore, I will have to accept the *sannyasa* order of life. Thus the people will naturally offer Me respects. Then, by My grace, I will give them *bhakti.* Yes, this is the best solution; but I am sure this will be a shock for My mother. Nitai will have to break the news to her.

SCENE SEVEN

Nityananda and Haridas Go Preaching

(On the streets of Navadvipa)

Narrator: The Lord's activities are unlimited. If Ananta Shesha with His unlimited hoods cannot describe the wonderful pastimes of Gaurahari, then what qualifications do I, a simple narrator, with one limited mouth, have to describe the Lord's pastimes? If I omit some pastimes of Lord Gaurahari, then I apologize to you, my nectar-seekers. Forgive me, for we are limited here to only a short period of time.

Once, on the instruction of the Lord, both Lord Nityananda and Haridas Thakura went door-to-door on the streets of Navadvipa, giving the nectar of the Holy Name to whoever they met. **(Lord Nityananda and Haridas enter)**

Haridas: My dear Lord Nityananda, Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has personally ordered us: "Whoever you meet, simply speak to him about Krishna." Surely there is no more fortunate position than to be preaching on the order of Lord Chaitanya.

Nityananda: Yes, Haridas, you are right. We must give out Lord Chaitanya's mercy. The fallen people of this age are all so tightly bound up in materialistic life. If we do not give them an opportunity to hear and chant the Holy Name of Krishna, they are destined for a hellish existence in their next life.

Haridas: Come! There is not a moment to waste! We must press on and visit a few more doors before nightfall!

Nityananda: Here is a house. Let us try this one. **(They knock on the door and a householder appears after some time. Lord Nityananda and Haridas both fall at his feet and begin to submit their plea to him)**

Nityananda: My dear sir, please give up your sinful life, chant the Holy Names of Krishna and adhere yourself to the lotus feet of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu!

Householder: My dear friends, what you say may be right, but what can I do? All my hours are spent in maintaining family members... I have no time for religion!

Nityananda: You say you have no time but death may come at any moment, and you cannot say you have no time then! Listen, you do not have to neglect your family, but as a householder, it is your duty to free your family from the cycle of birth and death. Otherwise, what is the use of simply filling their bellies? Even the animals can do that!

Haridas: This valuable human life is meant only for reviving our eternal relationship with Krishna. If you do this, by chanting the Holy Names and living a pure life, do you think the Supreme Lord, who is maintaining all living entities in the universe, will let your family starve?

Householder: I never thought about it like that before! You are quite right... I must not waste any more time! But how can I change my ways?

Nityananda: The first and foremost thing to do is to always remember Krishna by chanting His Holy Names. Now repeat after Me: *Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare.* If you always chant like this and live your life according to the principles of the *Bhagavad-Gita,* then you will very quickly develop your Krishna Consciousness, and you along with your family will become very happy and free from all anxieties!

Householder: Thank You! Thank You very much! I will certainly follow Your instructions, believe me!

Haridas: *Jai!* We will visit you again when we come back this way.

Householder: Now please, You have been so kind to me. I must repay You in some way... **(at that moment a horrible shouting and disturbing sound is heard offstage)**

Haridas: What on earth was that?

Householder: Oh, no! It's those two rogues again Jagai and Madhai!

Nityananda: Who are they?

Householder: They are the meanest pair of dacoits who ever walked the land of Bengal! Nothing and no one is safe when they are on the loose! I'm going inside and bolting the door... I wouldn't wait around here if I were You!

Haridas: Perhaps we should avoid these two fellows. We do not want to cause any trouble.

Nityananda: Haridas, surely we must be merciful to these two fallen souls. For if they are delivered from their sinful ways, then the good name of Lord Chaitanya will be still more glorified! **(Jagai and Madhai appear, stumbling and falling around in a drunken condition. Shouting and swearing, they see an old man passing by)**

Madhai: Here, Jagai! Look at this old man!

Jagai: Come on, Madhai, let's do him in!

Madhai: Yeah, I'll break his neck! **(They move in and begin to harass the old man. At that time, Lord Nityananda and Haridas fall at their feet and loudly implore the two rogues)**

Nityananda: My dear friends, please chant the Holy Name of Krishna and give up your sinful life! **(Jagai and Madhai are taken aback and the old man uses this opportunity to limp off stage)**

Jagai: What? Vaishnavas? Ugh! **(spits)**

Madhai: You're the scum of the earth!

Jagai: Come on, Madhai! Let's teach these fools a lesson!

Madhai: Yeah! Come here, you two! **(They give chase to Lord Nityananda and Haridas, who run for their lives)**

SCENE EIGHT

Lord Chaitanya Hears the Sankirtan Report

(In Srivasa Thakura's house, Lord Chaitanya is surrounded by His devotees)

Chaitanya: The essence of all Vedic knowledge is included in the eight syllables, *Hare Krishna, Hare Rama.* This is the reality of all Vedanta. The chanting of the Holy Names is the only way to cross the ocean of nescience, and is the chief means of attaining love of Godhead. By humility and meekness one attracts the attention of Krishna. Therefore, if one becomes very humble and meek, he can easily attain the lotus feet of Krishna in this age of Kali. In this way, whatever one does in executing devotional service must be accompanied with the chanting of the Holy Name of the Lord. **(Lord Nityananda and Haridas enter.)** Nityananda Prabhu! Haridas! What is the news of today's preaching work?

Nityananda: My dear Lord, by Your unlimited mercy, many fallen souls were delivered! **(Lord Chaitanya and other devotees all shout: *Jai! Haribol!*)** But there were two sinful rogues who would not listen to us. Somehow or other they avoided Your mercy, My Lord.

Haridas: Yes, dear Lord. These men were two demonic brothers named Jagai and Madhai. When we asked them to chant, they simply attacked us with filthy language and then chased us for miles. By Krishna's grace, we narrowly escaped, but they would have killed us had we been caught!

Nityananda: It is a great misfortune that they could not be given the mercy.

Chaitanya: My dear devotees! I am very pleased that you tried to deliver such a degraded pair of fellows. Actually, I know of these two brothers, Jagai and Madhai. Formerly they were good young boys, Jagannath and Madhava, born in a respectable *brahmana* family, but due to bad association they have become meat-eaters, woman-hunters and sinners of the worst kind. But, do not be down-hearted! If at first you don't succeed, then try again... somehow or other, they may be delivered, for everything is possible by the grace of Krishna.

Nityananda: Yes! We will go to them tomorrow and preach to them again! By Your mercy, they will be delivered!

Devotees: *Jai! Haribol! Gaura Haribol!*

SCENE NINE

The Deliverance of Jagai and Madhai

(On the streets of Navadvipa. Jagai and Madhai are on stage arguing. Enter Lord Nityananda and Haridas)

Jagai: Hey look! It's those nonsense God-mongers again!

Madhai: What? Come back for more, have you? Well, take this! **(Madhai throws a piece of clay pot at Lord Nityananda, which appears to draw blood)**

Nityananda: It does not matter that you have done this; I still request you to chant the Holy Name of Lord Krishna!

Jagai: How astonishing! I have never seen such tolerance, Madhai! He must be a saintly person! **(to Lord Nityananda)** My dear sir, I am very sorry! Please forgive me and please pardon my brother!

Madhai: Hey, what's wrong with you, Jagai? Have you lost your mind? Out of my way, you fool, I'm going to teach this Vaishnava not to mess with me!

Jagai: **(trying to stop Madhai)** No, Madhai, don't do it!

Haridas: Nrisimhadeva! Nrisimhadeva! **(suddenly Lord Chaitanya appears in a fierce and angry mood)**

Chaitanya: How dare you hurt Lord Nityananda! I will destroy you for this! **(He raises His *chakra* weapon)**

Nityananda: **(stopping the Lord)** Wait, My Lord! Your mission is not to kill, but to deliver such rascals as this! If You kill these two rogues, then You may as well kill all the people of this age, for they are all practically as fallen as these two! Please be merciful to them, I beg You!

Chaitanya: All right, I will spare you, but on one condition only: you must solemnly promise that from this moment onwards, you will give up all your sinful habits and take up the chanting of Krishna's Holy Names as your only shelter! **(the two brothers are both on their knees by now and they begin to beg the Lord)**

Jagai: Oh yes, my Lord, I'll do anything You ask! Anything!

Madhai: I'll turn over a new leaf, I promise!

Chaitanya: Come now, my dear friends, do not fear! Although you were most fallen, by the mercy of Lord Nityananda you have now become the most fortunate!

Jagai & Madhai: Oh thank You, My Lord! Thank You! **(Lord Chaitanya raises them up and embraces them)**

Nityananda: Dear Lord Gauranga, You are so kind to the unfortunate living entities in Kali-yuga, for although everyone is so sinful in this age, You are freely giving the highest benediction – pure loving service to Krishna – to anyone who simply takes shelter of Your lotus feet. Let's chant the Holy Names right now! ***(kirtan)*** *Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu ki jai!*

SCENE TEN

The Lord Disappears from His Room

(Later, in Jagannath Puri)

Narrator: After the conversion of Jagai and Madhai, the Lord performed many other pastimes in Navadvipa, and then He went on a tour of Jagannath Puri and South India. After the Lord completed His tour of South India, He returned to Jagannath Puri. ***(kirtan)*** Everyone in Jagannath Puri was filled with ecstasy to have the Lord back in town. The Lord spent six years instructing Ramananda Raya, and sharing wonderful pastimes with His devotees like Rupa Goswami, Sanatana Goswami, Raghunath Das and many others. Every year the Lord would observe the festival of Ratha-yatra, and all the devotees from Kulina-grama would come to see the Lord. They would stay for four months and then go back, travelling to Vrindavan, Bengal, Prayag, Umasi and many other places, preaching about the Holy Names of Krishna. Then for the last eighteen years of His manifest *lila,* Lord Chaitanya spent

His time in Jagannath Puri. In the daytime, He would associate with His beloved devotees, taking *prasad,* having *kirtan* and discussing topics of Krishna. At night, He would go practically insane, feeling intense separation from Krishna. Swarupa Damodar and Ramananda Raya would spend these nights with the Lord, consoling Him. Who can describe the love Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was feeling for Krishna? I certainly am not qualified to do so.

Swarupa: So, Govinda, make sure everything is alright with the Lord. Stay outside His door. Do not leave here. If you need anything, call out and we shall come. The Lord is feeling much separation from Krishna; there is no telling what He will do next. He is already rubbing His lotus-like face against the wall, thus causing Himself to bleed.

Govinda: Yes, Prabhu, I will lock the door so He cannot leave. *Haribol.* **(the devotees leave. The Lord is chanting but soon stops)**

Swarupa: So, Govinda, everything is fine with the Lord?

Govinda: Yes, Prabhuji. The Lord is safely locked in His room. I am staying to see to His needs.

Swarupa: But I don't hear the usual groaning sound the Lord makes.

Govinda: That is strange. Why don't you check to see if everything is alright.

Swarupa: Yes, I will. **(looks in room)** Govinda! Govinda! The Lord has gone! He is not here!

Govinda: What? This cannot be! I just saw Him in there half an hour ago. I am personally guarding His door. There is no possibility of the Lord leaving His room without my knowledge. Besides, the room was locked.

Swarupa: But I tell you, the Lord has disappeared. Go and look for yourself.

Govinda: Alas, where is the Lord?

Swarupa: He has gone! Call all the devotees. We must go and look for Him. The Lord could be in some danger. Have the king send out a search party. Come on, let's go look by the seashore.

SCENE ELEVEN

Rescuing the Lord from the Sea

(The devotees all assemble on the beach.)

Haridas: Mahaprabhu! Mahaprabhu! Where are You? My Lord, please hear our prayers! Please show us Your face and put us out of our misery! Oh, this is no use. There is no sign of the Lord anywhere!

Swarupa: Haridas, do not lament like this. The Lord will be found.

Haridas: It is nearly daybreak. We have been looking for the Lord all night, yet no one can find a trace of Him. I am sure the Lord has disappeared and left us here once and for all.

Swarupa: Do not talk like this. What you say makes no sense. **(Fisherman enters, babbling madly.)**

Fisherman: Hari! Hari! Hari! Oh Nrisimhadeva, please protect me. Help me! Hari! Hari! Get this ghost out of me! Hari! Oh goodness me, what shall I do?

Swarupa: My dear fisherman, why are you behaving like this? Have you seen anyone here? What is the reason for your strange behavior?

Fisherman: I have not seen a single person, but while fishing I captured a dead body! Seeing the corpse, I was full of fear! When I tried to release Him from my net I accidentally touched Him. As soon as I touched Him, a ghost entered my body! Thus, I am behaving like this! Hari! Hari! Oh Nrisimhadeva, help me! I am going crazy! Oh my wife, my poor children, who will take care of them? I have gone crazy. Hari! Hari! You must protect me! Drive this ghost from me! I have seen that host, that ghost is now haunting me! Oh what will happen if I die? Oh my wife! Oh my children! I must go and see an exorcist! I forbid you to go near Him! If you do the ghost will haunt you, too!!!

Swarupa: I am a famous exorcist. I will get rid of the ghost! **(He places a hand on the fisherman's head, chants *mantra* and slaps him)** My dear fisherman, the person who you think to be a ghost is actually the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Because of ecstatic love He must have fallen into the sea, and you then caught Him in your net.

Fisherman: I will show you where the Lord is. Come.

Swarupa: Help me revive Him, everyone! He's in a deep ecstatic trance! **(they loudly chant a *kirtan*. The Lord gradually and reluctantly awakens)**

Lord Chaitanya: Seeing the Yamuna river, I went to Vrindavan. There I saw the son of Maharaja Nanda enjoying pastimes in the water with the *gopis.* Then suddenly all of you made this tumultuous sound and brought Me back here. Where is Vrindavan? Where is Krishna? Why did you break My happy dream?

Swarupa: In Your dream, You mistook the sea to be the river Yamuna and You jumped into it. This fisherman caught You in his net. My Lord, come with us back to Your room.

Narrator: In this way, at night the Lord was feeling intense separation from Krishna and He would disappear from the company of the devotees, thus causing great anxiety to everyone. In the daytime, He would again regain external consciousness and instruct His devotees about Krishna.

SCENE TWELVE

The Lord Recites the Siksastakam Prayers

***(kirtan* with devotees in Gambhira. The Lord sits with His devotees)**

Lord Chaitanya: In this age of Kali-yuga, the process of worshiping Krishna is by chanting the Holy Names of Krishna: *Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare.* One who does this will soon attain Krishna. Here are some instructions on how one should chant the Holy Names: **(*Siksastakam* Prayers are dramatically recited by Lord Chaitanya)**

The End

THE WEDDING OF SRI CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU AND LAKSHMI PRIYA

from *Sri Chaitanya-Bhagavata, Adi-lila* Chapter 10
adapted by Madhurya-Lilananda Devi Dasi

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CAST: Narrator, Nimai, 3 Village Girls, Lakshmi Priya, Mata Shachi, Vanamali, Ishana, Vallabhacharya, Vallabhacharya's Wife, Extras for dance.

Narrator: (Purport by Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati from *Chaitanya Bhagavata*)

Normally, in the material world, people like to hear about festivals of marriage. But by hearing those things people become more bound to material attachments. But, hearing about the marriage of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the Lord of Maya, does not have the same kind of effect. Actually, Lord Chaitanya's whole pastime is for liberating the people from the material world. If someone thinks that Lord Chaitanya's marriage is a material affair, then that person is in the worst kind of Maya. But one should know, of course, that all type of enjoyment is actually the property of the Lord. One who takes shelter of Him as His servant and hears about the transcendental variegatedness of His devotional service, can never fall into any kind of inauspiciousness in their lives. So, in that place where Bhagavan, the reservoir of transcendental happiness is present, there can't be any room for sense gratification. We should never think that the Lord is under the sway of Maya, but He is always transcendental to Maya's influence. One who is absorbed in the transcendental happiness of serving the Lord and hearing His glories is liberated from the bondage of the material attachments in the material world; they are never kept under the bondage of material sense gratification. Such devotees never become materialistic enjoyers.

SCENE ONE

By the Ganges

(Young girls enter, lay out a cloth and put their paraphernalia of worship on it. Nimai enters and watches them from other side of stage for a minute)

Girl 1: Please, get some Ganges water for Lord Shiva.

Girl 2: Here are the garlands, be careful with them.

Girl 3: I have the sweets and rice for the offering. We must be very careful with our worship this month.

Girl 1: If we are, maybe Lord Shiva will be kind and give us good husbands.

(Nimai walks over and addresses the girls)

Nimai: Worship Me, and I shall give you good husbands and good benedictions. The Ganges and goddess Durga are My maidservants. Not to speak of the other demigods, even Lord Shiva is My servant. **(Nimai grabs the flower garland and sandalwood pulp and puts them on. He starts to eat the bananas and sweets. The girls become angry and start to try to take the things back, but Nimai prevents them from doing so)**

Girl 2: Dear Nimai, You are just like our brother in our village relationship. It is not good for You to act like this.

Girl 3: Please don't take our things for worshiping the demigods.

Girl 1: Please don't disturb us in this way. Leave us alone!

Nimai: (while eating the offering) My dear sisters, I give you the benedictions that your husbands will be very handsome. They will be learned, clever, and youthful and possess wealth and rice. Not only that, but each of you will have seven sons, who will all live long lives and be very intelligent.

(Girls look at each other and start to giggle, then look back at Nimai and act angry again)

Girl 2: We don't have to listen to You we're leaving!

Girl 3: You are just teasing us, Nimai. Please don't follow us and bother us any more. **(Girls start to pack up their offerings)**

Nimai: If you are miserly and do not give Me the offerings, then every one of you will have and old husband at least four co-wives. **(Girls suddenly stop what they are doing)**

Girl 1: Do you think He knows something that we don't?

Girl 2: Maybe He is empowered by the demigods.

Girl 3: What if the curse if effective? What should we do?

Girl 1: Maybe we should give Him the offerings. What do you think?

Girl 2: I think we should give Him the offerings and be safe. **(Girls bring Nimai the offerings and He sits to eat it)**

Nimai: **(holding up his hand)** I give you My benedictions for a happy marriage. **(Girls are standing there giggling when Lakshmi Priya comes in with her offering in a basket)**

Lakshmi: Am I late? **(she stops when she sees Nimai and what is happening. She offers her obeisances, gets out her offerings and starts to worship Nimai. The other girls slowly leave the stage whispering to each other. Nimai stops eating the other offerings to accept hers)**

Nimai: Just worship Me, for I am the Supreme Lord. If you worship Me, certainly you will get the benedictions you desire. "My dear *gopis,* I accept your desire to have Me as your husband, and thus worship Me. I wish your desire to be fulfilled because it deserves to be so." **(Lakshmi Priya offers her obeisances, watches Nimai as He leaves and then she leaves to the other side)**

SCENE TWO

The courtyard of Mata Shachi's house

(Nimai is sitting studying, and Mata Shachi is sewing, or doing household duties. Mata Shachi watches Nimai and then walks to center stage, where she thinks out loud, unheard by Nimai)

Shachi: **(to the audience)** My Nimai is such a great scholar. All the residents of Navadvipa respect Him so. He is now in His full youth, and soon He will be a young man. I wonder if I should think about a suitable wife for Him. I know of the daughter of Vallabhacharya – she is very beautiful and devoted to Lord Krishna. But, maybe Nimai isn't ready yet. He is always studying and teaching His students. Vishvarupa, His elder brother, went away and took *sannyasa* when he found out that his father was planning his marriage. And his father has recently left this world. Maybe I should wait. I don't think this would be a good time to bring it up. **(Mata Shachi goes off stage. Nimai puts his books away and gets up to go. As He walks off stage, Lakshmi Priya passes Him, carrying a water pot. As soon as she sees Him, she offers her obeisances. Then, realizing what she did, she covers her face shyly with her cloth and leaves. Nimai smiles and watches her go)**

Nimai: **(speaking to the audience)** I did not take *sannyasa,* and since I am

remaining at home it is My duty to act as a householder. Without a wife there is no meaning to householder life. Merely a house is not a home, for it is a wife that gives the home meaning. If one lives at home with a wife, together they can fulfill all the interests of human life. **(Nimai leaves the stage)**

Narrator: The same day, Vanamali, the village marriage-maker, happens to come to the house of Shachi Mata. He offers her his respects, and with great affection she gives him a place to sit down. **(actors do this as Narrator is talking. Mata Shachi brings a straw mat and some water. Then she sits down, too)**

Vanamali: Shachi Mata, why are you not thinking about the marriage of your son. Vallabhacharya is living here in Navadvipa. In his house they are very strict, pure vegetarians. They are very pure *brahmanas.* There is no defect in their family or behavior. Vallabhacharya has a very beautiful and chaste daughter; she is almost like Lakshmi, the Goddess of Fortune. What about trying to make an engagement with Vallabhacharya's family for your son to marry his daughter, Lakshmi Priya? If you think this is a good match, then I can make the arrangements immediately.

Shachi: My dear *brahmana.* I already know of this girl. She is very beautiful and devoted to Lord Krishna. I was also thinking that she would be a suitable daughter-in-law. But I'm not sure that this is the best time for my Nimai to marry. He has recently lost His father. Also, He is so much involved with His studies and His school, and He is still so young. I think that He should first grow a little older. There is plenty of time later for these things. I don't think Nimai should marry just now.

Vanamali: (looking very disappointed) Nimai is a very handsome young man. It is time that He is married. What does He think of this? Have you discussed it with Him?

Shachi: Well, no, I haven't. But, He is still too young. I will discuss it with Him some time later.

Vanamali: (getting up to leave, Mata Shachi stands, too) But, you have no objection to the girl or her family?

Shachi: Oh, no! She is a very nice girl; I was already thinking of her as a suitable wife for Nimai.

Vanamali: But not now?

Shachi: No, not now.

Vanamali: I can't tell you how disappointed I am with your decision. Please reconsider this, and I will come back again to see you. **(Vanamali turns and Mata Shachi leaves the stage. He is very saddened by the words of Mata Shachi. As he is walking to the other side of the stage, Nimai enters. Vanamali embraces Nimai)**

Nimai: Please tell me, my dear *brahmana,* where have you been? Who's house were you visiting?

Vanamali: I went to see your mother. We were talking about your marriage.

Nimai: What did she say?

Vanamali: She would not listen to my words. She did not want to discuss your marrlage. I don't know why she wouldn't listen to my words. **(when Nimai hears this, He is silent for a minute, thinking)**

Nimai: I must go now, My students will be here soon.

Vanamali: Yes, I have matters to attend to also, *Namaste.*

Nimai: *Hare Krishna!* **(Vanamali leaves, and Mata Shachi enters from the other side. Nimai goes to her smiling)** Mata, why didn't you listen to Vanamali? I just met him on the road. You should receive a *brahmana* with favorable words when he comes to visit, and listen to what he says.

Shachi: You think that I should be more favorable to what a *brahmana* says?

Nimai: Yes, Vanamali is very intelligent. You should be very kind to him. I have to go now. My students will be here soon. **(Nimai leaves)**

Shachi: Ishana! **(her servant comes in)** Go and tell Vanamali to come to see me tomorrow. **(Ishana leaves, Mata Shachi leaves)**

Narrator: The next day when Vanamali returns, Mata Shachi has news more to his liking. She tells him to arrange the marriage without delay. He is very happy with this news and, taking the dust of her feet, he proceeds to the house of Vallabhacharya.

SCENE THREE

Vallabhacharya's house

(Vallabhacharya along with his wife and Lakshmi Priya are worshiping the family Deity. When they are done, Vanamali enters. He is brought a seat and something to drink by Lakshmi Priya and her mother, and

then they leave the stage. Vallabhacharya sits down next to Vanamali)

Vallabha: My dear *brahmana,* please accept our obeisances. Please tell me how I can be of service to you. If there is anything that you need, I will do my best to get it for you. You are a great devotee of Lord Krishna, and by serving the devotees one can get the mercy of the Lord.

Vanamali: My dear Vallabhacharya, I just want you to listen to my words with great care and attention. This will bring great benefit to you and your family. You should immediately, on the most auspicious moment, arrange for the marriage of your daughter without delay. The son of Jagannath Mishra, whose name is Vishvambhar, and who is the greatest *pandit* and the ocean of all good qualities, is the suitable person for your daughter, Lakshmi Priya. I am presenting this to you, and you should give full consideration. If you think it appropriate, then you should accept this arrangement without delay.

Vallabha: Your words bring great joy to my heart. Who could get a better husband for his daughter. I must be very fortunate Krishna is very merciful upon me. Only if Lakshmi Devi herself is satisfied with my daughter is it possible for her to be married to such a bridegroom. I very happily accept your suggestion; please do the needful immediately. But, I have one problem that I am very shy to talk about: I am actually very poor I don't have anything that I can give except my daughter. As a dowry I can only give five pieces of spice. This is my offering you can agree whether it is acceptable or not.

Vanamali: (very happy) Vallabhacharya, your words are so pleasing for me to hear. Please do not worry about anything. I am sure that everything can be successfully arranged. Now I must go inform Shachi Mata and make the arrangements.

(wedding dance)

The End